

HRC upholds sex club regulations, rejects recommendation of its Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans Advisory Committee.

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Pin-up Steve Vickers
Hockey sex scandal, sex rings, and a good puck.

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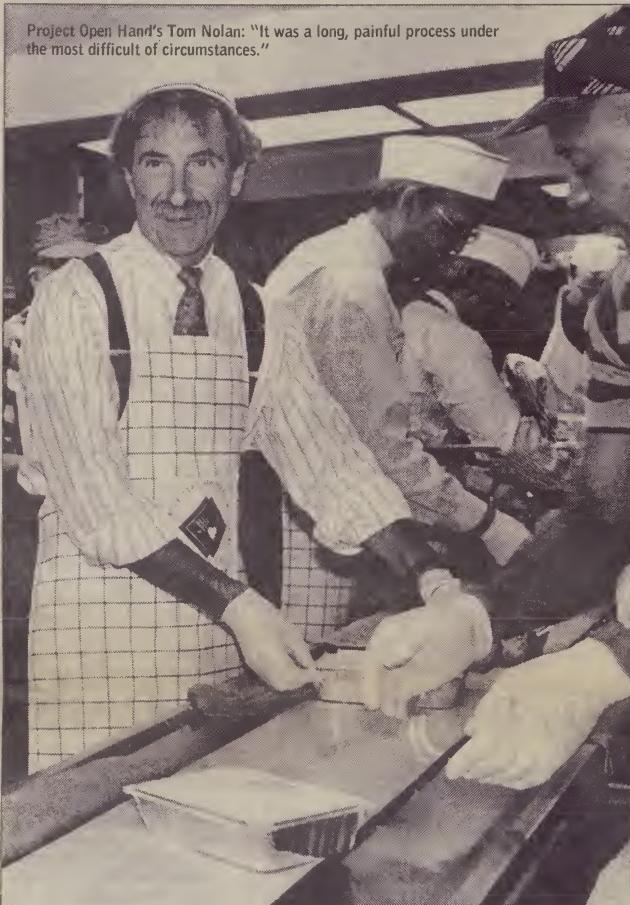
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Project Open Hand's Tom Nolan: "It was a long, painful process under the most difficult of circumstances."

Project Open Hand trims the fat

Board votes to cap top six salaries for '97-98

by Cynthia Laird

In what may be a first among AIDS service organizations in San Francisco, the board of directors at Project Open Hand voted unanimously to freeze the salaries of six top administrators for the upcoming 1997-98 fiscal year at their meeting Tuesday, June 17. The agency, which provides food and meals to 3,200 people living with HIV/AIDS each week in San Francisco and Alameda counties, is projecting an annual operating cash budget of \$6.8 million, chief financial officer Michael Kossman told the Bay Area Reporter.

Tom Nolan, the agency's executive director since September 1994, said he is well aware of the sensitivity surrounding executive salaries, both in the nonprofit and public sectors. Like other AIDS service organizations in the city, Nolan said, the board sets his salary and reviews it annually. This year the decision was made to keep it at its 1996-97 level. Those figures are not yet available.

"I was really touched. It was an appreciative gesture and totally voluntary on their part," Nolan said of the five other administrators, who decided to forego pay raises for the year. "We have a really talented team."

At the same time, Nolan told the B.A.R. that he has some concern that in the long run, salaries need to remain competitive.

"It was a long, painful process under the most difficult of circumstances," he said of

the budget preparations that started in March.

Nolan explained the "difficult circumstances" are signals that support for AIDS service organizations may be diminishing, even though the client population at Project Open Hand remains stable. "The public perception is that it's time to move on," he said, adding that the AIDS epidemic is far from over.

Prior to becoming executive director at Project Open Hand, Nolan, who is openly gay, was a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. That body attempted to raise their own salaries in 1989 and quickly drew the ire of constituents. The increase did not happen, Nolan said.

'Feeding the clients'

Project Open Hand's decision to put the lid on administrative salaries – at least for now – follows a period in which salary increases were reported. For fiscal year 1994-95, Nolan's reported salary at Project Open Hand was \$74,667 for the 10-month period that he worked there, federal tax records state. That year the agency had an annual budget of \$6.9 million.

The agency's last available tax records show Nolan received \$84,684 for the 1995-96 fiscal year; the agency's overall budget was reported at \$7.8 million, of which over \$1 million was in-kind donations of food, Kossman said. The agency also expects to receive in-kind food donations in 1997-98.

"Every time you do a budget, it's all about priorities," Kossman said in an interview. "Our priority is feeding our clients."

Kossman told the B.A.R. there was consensus in budget meetings that in order to preserve client services, the top six administrators did not "take a raise."

Cynthia Plevin, board chair, said the directors feel they've "always been conscious about keeping administrative costs in the low 20 percent range."

"I think we've also been conscious of the fact that turnover has financial ramifications. If it costs money, that's money you

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Pat Robertson group sues to overturn SF domestic partner law

by Cynthia Laird

The Virginia-based American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU), Pat Robertson's legal advocacy group founded to aggressively promote the Christian right agenda as a response to the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a lawsuit Tuesday, June 17 challenging San Francisco's month-old domestic partners benefit law. The ACLU's suit was filed in U.S. District Court on behalf of an electrical contractor who does not have a current contract with the city.

The city's landmark law, which went into effect June 1, requires businesses that contract with the city to provide benefits to employees' domestic partners if the benefits are offered to spouses.

The lawsuit is the second to be filed over the domestic partners law. Last month, the American Air Transport Association (ATA) filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court, arguing that the national air transportation system is governed exclusively by federal law.

A spokeswoman at the federal courthouse in Oakland told the B.A.R. that the ACLU lawsuit was assigned to Judge Vaughan



Pat Robertson

Walker in San Francisco, and had been sent there. No copy of the suit was available at presstime.

The ACLU is seeking an injunction to prohibit the city from enforcing the ordinance. According to Dennis Aftergut with the city attorney's office, a separate motion must be filed to get an injunction.

"It's obvious that these people are not interested in equality," Supervisor Susan Leal

told the B.A.R. "All they are interested in is repression and eliminating the possibility of equality for all Americans, particularly when it comes to gays and lesbians."

Where's PM&M Electric?

A preliminary investigation into the firm ACLJ says it's representing, "PM&M Electric, Inc." has turned up more questions than answers. An ACLU press release describes the company as "a California and Arizona general contractor impacted by the ordinance." According to Ed Lee, the city's director of purchasing, PM&M Electric, Inc. has had no contracts with the city in the last year.

There is an Oakland address and telephone number for PM&M Electric, Inc.; however, the site is devoid of any signs indicating any business. A call to the number listed reveals only an answering machine with no information about the company.

According to the City of Oakland's business tax department, the business name listed at the 3032 Market Street address is "W.S.B. Electric, Inc." not PM&M. No owner is listed, as required by the city. The phone number is also different.

According to the ACLU, PM&M is "op-

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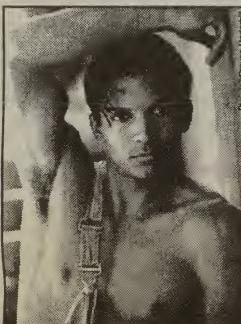
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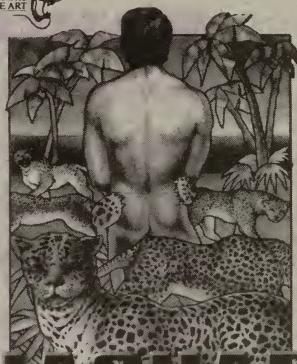
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Dalai Lama urges 'full human rights for all,' including gays

by Dennis Conkin

The Dalai Lama, world-revered leader of millions of Buddhists and leader of the Tibetan people, spoke out strongly against discrimination and violence against lesbians and gays during an extraordinary Wednesday, June 11 meeting in San Francisco with lesbian and gay Buddhists, clergy, and human rights activists.

The religious leader said at the press conference that he had previously been asked his views on gay marriage, and said that such social sanction of gay relationships "has to be judged in the context of the society itself and the laws and social norms."

During the 45-minute meeting, the Nobel peace laureate and Buddhist religious leader voiced his support for the full recognition of human rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

Buddhist sexual proscriptions ban homosexual sexual activity and heterosexual sex through orifices other than the vagina, including masturbation or other sexual activity with the hand. Buddhist proscriptions also forbid sex at certain times — such as

during full and half moon days, the daytime, and during a wife's menstrual period or pregnancy — or near shrines or temples. Adultery is considered sexual misconduct, but the hiring of a female prostitute for penile-vaginal sex is not, unless one pays a third party to procure the person.

From a "Buddhist point of view," lesbian and gay sex "is generally considered sexual misconduct," the Dalai Lama told reporters at a press conference a day earlier.

However, such proscriptions are for members of the Buddhist faith — and from "society's viewpoint," homosexual sexual relations can be "of mutual benefit, enjoyable, and harmless," according to the Dalai Lama.

"His Holiness was greatly concerned by reports made available to him regarding violence and discrimination against gay and lesbian people. His Holiness opposes violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation. He urges respect, tolerance, compassion, and the full recognition of human rights for all," said Office of Tibet spokesman Dawa Tsering in a statement issued within an hour of the meeting.

Photographs of the historic event were taken, but were avail-

able only on the condition that participants' quotes be reviewed prior to publication.

That condition violates journalistic canons regarding the freedom of the press. The Bay Area Reporter declined any conditions for the release of the photographs and has lodged a protest with the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association over their embargo.

Concern about violence

The extraordinary meeting was held at the Buddhist leader's suite at the Fairmont Hotel, on the last day of "Peacemaking: The Power of Non-Violence," a three-day conference held at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

Sponsored by The California Institute of Asian Studies and Tibet House, the conference featured plenary sessions, workshops, and discussions with a wide array of international, national, and local human rights and violence prevention and intervention leaders, including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, actor Edward James Olmos, East Timor human rights leader and Nobel laureate Jose Ramos-Horta, and others, including a representative of Nobel peace laureate and Guatemalan peace activist Rigoberta Menchu.

The meeting with lesbians and gays followed a January 1996 report by the Bay Area Reporter that detailed an open letter by Buddhist AIDS Project coordinator Steve Peskind, asking the world-revered spiritual leader of millions of Buddhists to publicly clarify his published contradictory statements on homosexuality.

Peskind said that he was motivated by concern about the violence and harm caused to lesbian and gay around the world through pronouncements against homosexual sexual activity by Buddhist religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama.

Many gay and lesbian Buddhists have reported virulently anti-gay sentiments and teachings from religious teachers in Tibetan and other Buddhist practice lines.

A former Tibetan Buddhist monk, Peskind is a well-known figure in Buddhist and AIDS circles and is a co-founder of the San Francisco-based Shanti Project and Coming Home Hospice.

When asked last January by the Bay Area Reporter if the Dalai Lama might meet with Peskind or other lesbian and gay Buddhists leaders during the June conference, a California Institute for Integral Studies special events organizer initially indicated that such a tête-à-tête would be unlikely.

Gay and lesbian political and anti-violence leaders including Supervisor Tom Ammiano and Lester Olmstead-Rose quickly joined with Peskind, asking for the clarification of the religious leader's statements proclaiming homosexual sex as sexual misconduct.

Warm and relaxed

The possibility of organized gay and lesbian protest, including a high-profile public information ad campaign conducted in the national media such as the New York

Community center design to be presented at tonight's annual meeting

by Cynthia Laird

The winning design for San Francisco's gay community center will be presented by local architects Jane Cee and Peter Pfau tonight, Thursday, June 19, when the Community Center Project's board of directors holds its second annual reception and meeting. The board will also elect officers for 1997-98.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the reception and meeting, which takes place in the auditorium of the City College of San Francisco administration building, 33 Gough Street, just off Market Street. ▶

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call (415) 241-1526.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Teens mistakenly bash hetero as gay

by Dennis Conkin

The United States Park police apprehended two juveniles at Baker Beach in connection with an anti-gay incident Saturday, June 14, after they allegedly attacked a man who was at the popular site with his wife.

Witnesses observed the juveniles using a solar-powered emergency phone at the site to make anti-gay comments moments before the man was attacked.

The incident happened shortly after the afternoon discussion of Senior Unlimited Nudes had ended, according to senior nudist activist Tortuga Bi-Liberty, and the group was packing up to leave the site.

When Bi-Liberty saw and overheard the youths' anti-gay conversation, he dragged his possessions several feet further from them and tried to avoid a confrontation by not looking at them.

Shortly after walking to the parking lot, Liberty said he observed an apparent fight including "a body leaping through the air, then two bodies wrestling furiously on the sand, then two persons running away."

Liberty said that he made an emergency call as he watched the

fracas, but the incident was over by the time he reached the scene and the man who had been attacked.

"He was holding an injured lower arm with his other hand," Liberty said. "As he came closer, I saw blood on his face. So I gave the phone to ... the apparent victim, and he told his story."

According to him, he had left his wife in the parking lot while he went to sit down on the clothist

While most anti-gay hate crimes tend to be crimes of convenience, a subsegment of perpetrators go to places such as nude beaches.

part of the beach," he said. "As the two boys approached him, one teased, 'My friend likes you.' The friend replied, 'I hate faggots.'

The man ignored the comments and remained silent, but was struck in the face with a rock thrown by one of the juveniles.

According to Liberty, the youth was tackled and wrestled to the sand.

"The boy broke loose. Then both boys ran away, only to be

captured by federal officers with the United States Park Police," Liberty said.

"Two more cops approached us at the telephone and escorted the victim and me to the parking lot."

Jennifer Rakowski, a client advocate with Community United Against Violence, told the Bay Area Reporter the incident does not surprise her. While most anti-gay hate crimes tend to be crimes of convenience, she said a subseg-

ment of perpetrators go to places such as nude beaches, gay neighborhoods, and other venues seeking to attack homosexuals — or people who they think may be gay or lesbian.

A park police spokesman told the B.A.R. that the youths were booked at the Hall of Justice on assault with a deadly weapon and assault charges, and will be prosecuted by the San Francisco District Attorney. ▼

Sip champagne near Lake Merritt and help ALRP at brunch benefit this Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

The AIDS Legal Referral Panel has again selected the historic Camron-Stanford House on Lake Merritt as the setting for its East Bay champagne brunch benefit this Sunday, June 22. ALRP has provided civil legal assistance to over 25,000 people with HIV/AIDS since it was formed in 1983.

ALRP has long faced the challenge of ensuring that legal help is available to people in the East Bay who need assistance. According to Executive Director Irwin Keller, residents of Alameda and Contra Costa counties now account for almost 20 percent of ALRP's clients.

The agency has worked to improve services across the bay for the last year, and continues to address the need. Last month, Irma L. Moreno was hired as the East Bay outreach attorney. She pro-

vides legal services from the offices of AIDS Project of the East Bay three days a week, in addition to holding legal clinics in other communities.

Hundreds of lawyers and notaries provide pro bono services to ALRP clients. In the East Bay, about 12 percent of the attorneys are from the law firm of Crosby, Heafey, Roach, and May. That firm has also been a generous financial contributor over the years.

Donations for Sunday's brunch will help enable ALRP to respond to the myriad new employment and insurance issues facing many people who, as a result of new treatments, are returning to

health, according to Keller.

"Your donation will enable the ALRP to continue its focused outreach to underserved communities," he said.

Last year's champagne brunch was attended by about 60 people; Keller hopes more will attend this year. ▼

Tickets start at \$25 per person. The brunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Camron-Stanford House, located at 1414 Lakeside Drive. For reservations or more information, call ALRP at (415) 291-5454.

Correction:

In our June 5 story "Possible Coors participation in LA Pride causes controversy," the brewery's contribution to the Los Angeles "Splash" fundraising event was overstated. Coors donated \$10 thousand, not \$10 million. We apologize for the ridiculous error. ▼

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Matthew 7:1



Rick Gerhardt

Gay promgoers ignore misanthropic Christian fundies on their way to "Under the Stars We Are Free: Gay Prom '97" at Centennial Hall in Hayward June 14. The third annual event, which is sponsored by the Lambda Youth Group of Hayward, saw hundreds of Bay Area gay youth celebrating Gay Pride Month by dancing the night away to the music of deejays like Olga T and SF's own Page Hodel. The alcohol- and drug-free tropical paradise extravaganza featured an evening wear competition, royal court coronation, and fun door prizes.

Basher guilty in assault on lesbian Muni driver

by Dennis Conkin

A man who threatened to kill a lesbian Muni bus driver during a vicious anti-gay attack last April pleaded guilty to the felony hate crime in San Francisco Superior Court on Tuesday, June 17.

Tyrone Johnson, 35, received a sentence of nine months in county jail and three years probation related to his conviction of the attack, according to San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Maria Bee.

Johnson could have received five years in state prison under state laws regarding assaults on public transit operators.

"Maybe the word is getting out that our office is taking these crimes seriously," Bee told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We've been getting good results on the hate crime charges."

Muni driver Sami Sparks told the B.A.R. that Johnson refused to look at her during his trial and other court appearances — and that she has no idea why the assault happened.

"I'm very happy he pleaded out and acknowledged that he was wrong," Sparks said. "I have no idea what the provocation was. He never talked to me."

When police arrived at the 20th and Mission Street crime scene last April 5, they discovered three buses stopped and traffic backed up for a block.

"We then heard yelling, and a black male and white female approached us. The black male was

yelling obscenities and pointing his finger in a threatening manner at the white female," police said.

In addition to the victim, three independent witnesses told police that Johnson had attacked the bus driver.

"Sparks said that she had stopped at 21st and Mission to let the passengers out at the rear door and left the front door closed," the report details. "Sparks told Johnson that she wasn't letting anyone in, and to get on one of the buses following her."

Johnson allegedly began a tirade of hate speech and anti-lesbian epithets and threatened to have Sparks fired.

"Open this fucking door and let me in, you fucking bitch. I'm going to have your fucking job, you bull dyke," Johnson yelled, according to the report.

Sparks drove on to 20th and Mission, and when she opened the door to let off passengers, Johnson, who had run to catch up to the bus, allegedly jumped on board and began attacking her physically and threatening to kill her.

"Fucking bitch dyke. Fuck you. Suck my dick, you fucking dyke. I'm going to kill you because you are a fucking dyke. I hate you fucking lesbians. You're dead dyke bitch," Johnson yelled, according to the police narrative.

Johnson then allegedly lunged at Sparks, slapped her repeatedly on the face, grabbed her wrists with both hands, spat in her face, and kept up the threatening harangue. Finally, a passenger successfully grabbed him in a bear

hug to remove him from Sparks, and the two fell off the bus.

Less-than-super supervisor

Sparks told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she believes that the Muni supervisor who responded to the incident was also "homophobic and misogynist" — and just as hostile and rude as Johnson, but minus the swear words.

"I've received no support from Muni about this incident," she said.

Sparks filed an official Muni complaint against the supervisor, but because of union rules that such reports be filed within nine days, the complaint was rejected for filing past the deadline.

She said that 90 percent of Muni drivers are "very good," but noted that most drivers are straight men. She said that the Muni work-force needs to be educated about lesbian and gay issues, but also said that passengers need to be educated about the problems faced by Muni drivers.

"The education needs to be on both sides of the fence," Sparks said. "We are people just like everybody else, the only difference is that we have a uniform. People look at us as some kind of authority figure."

The attack is not the first one for Sparks, who has been driving for Muni for six years.

"I've been assaulted before, but not because I'm gay," she said.

After she was assaulted by a passenger with a handgun, Sparks spent two weeks in a psychiatric ward of a local hospital because of emotional trauma related to the assault. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SF HRC upholds sex club regulations

by Liz Highleyman

A full Human Rights Commission (HRC) voted last Thursday, June 12 not to accept the recommendation of its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Advisory Committee (LGBTAC) to ask the Department of Public Health (DPH) to rescind its regulations concerning monitoring and private spaces in sex clubs. This meeting was the first time the regulations have been considered by a predominantly non-gay body.

At its May 20 meeting, the advisory committee voted by an unusually close margin of 10-7 to "call on DPH to protect privacy and civil liberties by deleting government-enforced monitoring and allowing for private spaces in sex clubs." Since the LGBTAC vote was not unanimous, Martha Knutzen - who chairs both the advisory committee and the full HRC - invited a variety of speakers to address the issue.

LGBTAC member Shadow Morton said the sex club regulations feel like "a slap in the face" considering "all the positive change the community has accomplished" with regards to AIDS and safer sex education. William Bland, an HIV-positive public health professional on the LGBTAC, also spoke in favor of the proposed letter.

Noting that the HRC voted to oppose bathhouse closure in 1984, Jonathan Klein of Community United for Sexual Privacy (CUSP) decried "Big Brother-like monitoring." In order to justify such a "draconian violation of civil rights," Klein stated, the DPH must show a "clear and present danger - which they have not done nor tried to do." Klein said that CUSP had obtained the signatures of 15 health professionals on a letter, and over 400 signatures on a petition, opposing the current regulations.

Gil Criswell, also of CUSP, contrasted his group's "voice of clarity" with the "voices of panic and hysteria" coming from the DPH.

He wondered why the health departments in San Jose and Berkeley - which have bathhouses with private rooms - have not come to the same conclusions as the San Francisco DPH regarding the purported dangers of un-

monitored private spaces.

Outgoing DPH director Dr. Sandra Hernandez stated that the DPH "does not take civil liberties issues lightly." She criticized those who "believe in individual human rights as an absolute, even if they promote an epidemic that costs many lives." Hernandez attempted to bring some perspective to the sex club issue, noting that "this single issue has taken enormous amounts of time, energy, and passion. Among the prevention issues that face us, this is a relatively small one." She concluded that we "owe it to ourselves as a community to try to reach a consensus" on the issue, and proposed community-based forums to further dialog and solicit input from "a broad segment of the gay and lesbian community."

Dean Goodwin, Mayor Willie Brown's liaison to the queer community, stated that the privacy issue "is very difficult when you approach it as a civil rights issue," but as a public health issue "it is much easier to address. ... When you think of the lives that these regulations save, it's an easier decision." Goodwin said that Brown supports the regulations and believes that "we have an obligation to protect the health and well-being of our citizens."

Goodwin stated that "this is not about controlling the private sex lives of people. We are not going into bedrooms, we are not going into hotel rooms. This is about protecting the lives of individuals who are engaging in public behavior which puts lives at risk." Noting that many gay men continue to practice unsafe sex for a variety of reasons, Goodwin concluded that the role of government is "to protect those who are vulnerable."

Fire in a crowded hot tub?

Commission Vice Chair Frank Chong brought up once again the issue of selective enforcement against gay clubs, and asked whether the DPH regulations applied to establishments such as hot tub facilities and massage parlors. Hernandez replied that sex work is a separate issue from sex club regulation. AIDS Office Director Dr. Mitch Katz acknowledged that it is legal for two people to have sex in a hot tub facility and that such activity is not regulated, just as sexual activity in

hotels and homes is not regulated.

Bill Hershon, who teaches a course on AIDS and civil liberties, spoke in favor of the existing regulations, asserting that, "This is a public health issue, not a civil liberties issue, just as yelling fire in a crowded theater is a public safety issue, not a free speech issue."

CUSP member Richard Carranza claimed that "regulations undermine proven successful behavior change based on personal responsibility. One can more effectively influence behavior by positive reinforcement - prohibition doesn't work."

Jennifer Rakowski, the Hate Violence Coordinator for Community United Against Violence (CUAV), spoke to the issue of violence and "pick-up crime." She said that sex clubs are critically important in providing a "public private" space, since it is "not always safe to have sex in 'private private' spaces" such as hotels and bedrooms.

Stephen Murray complained that the DPH has made no attempt to evaluate whether monitoring in sex clubs has had a positive or negative effect on HIV transmission. He also decried selective enforcement against gay male establishments, and noted that the Building Inspection Commission voted at their June 4

page 22 ►

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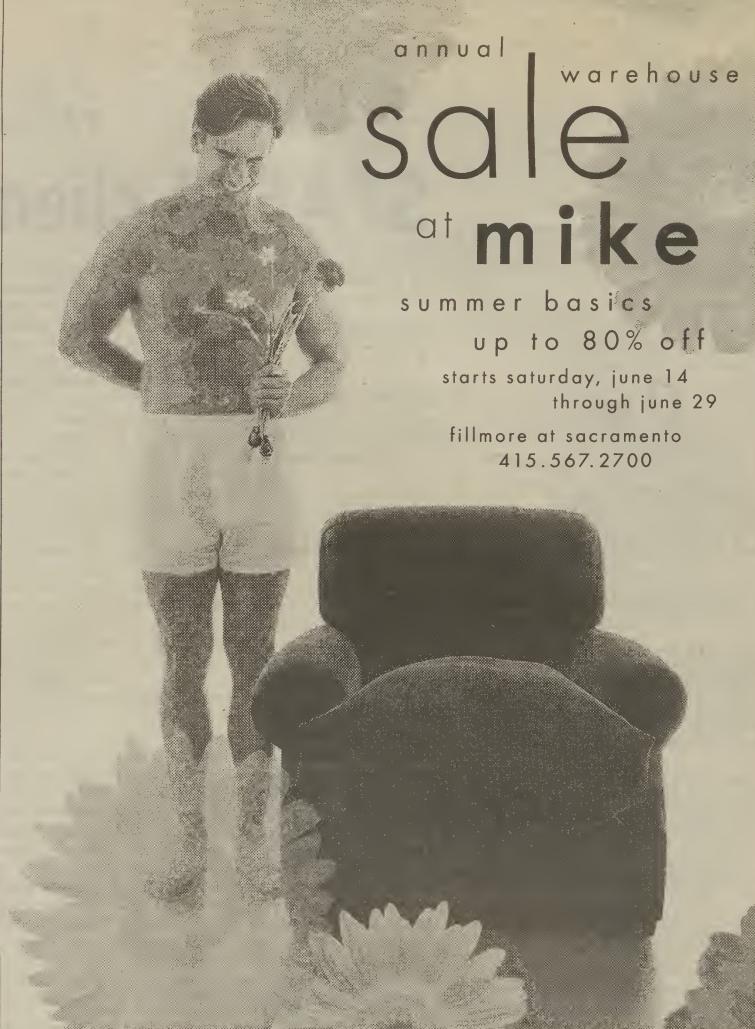
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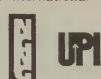
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BAY AREA REPORTER



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Mayor culpas

If you see a bunch of men and women flamboyantly parading through the streets of San Francisco this week, unable to resist flaunting who they are, you won't be watching the gay parade. That's next week. The current crop of attention-seekers is, of course, the visiting U.S. Conference of Mayors. We welcome them to our city – but would remind them not to say or do anything that might frighten the horses and kids, and to avoid doing anything too outlandish in front of video cameras. Being mayoral is their lifestyle, and they have the right to live it, but it isn't a choice that anyone else needs to be forced to witness.

We say all that in the spirit of fun, naturally, because we know we'll hear similar things when we take to the street for our celebration. Some people (inside and outside the community) will complain about the drags, leather, and nudity on display; it's a recurring theme every year. On this issue, we side with the drags and leather people – it's a celebration, dammit, and it's supposed to be fun. No, perhaps celebrants shouldn't have sex on a street corner in front of Pat Robertson's news crews, but being enthusiastic on gay pride weekend is a good thing that nobody needs to apologize for. And we cannot keep checking to make sure our slips aren't showing, just because there may be fundies in the crowd trying to assemble another video about the "gay agenda." As our cover story on Pat Robertson clearly shows, those people hate us when we're in committed domestic partner relationships just as much as when we're dancing around in chaps and/or off-the-shoulder chiffon gowns.

Speaking of the gay agenda, if and when the community ever puts one together, one item that deserves a place near the top is changing the medical profession's treatment of longterm HIV survivors. (Particularly now that there are more them, thanks to triple therapy.) As Jeff Getty reports on page 25, people may be living longer with their HIV infections, but their chance of surviving organ failure (heart, lungs, kidneys, or anything else that requires a transplant) is no less remote – which is to say, nonexistent.

The reason for that gloomy prognosis is not because people with HIV couldn't survive transplants, but because healthcare professionals are reluctant to afford them

the chance. Despite repeated pleas for organ donations, the country is still far short of the number needed, leading to the unhappy situation where thousands die after languishing on waiting lists; doctors who ration the organs seem to have collectively rationalized that people with HIV aren't worthy enough. Their prevailing attitude seems to be that "they're going to die anyway."

Yeah? Who isn't?

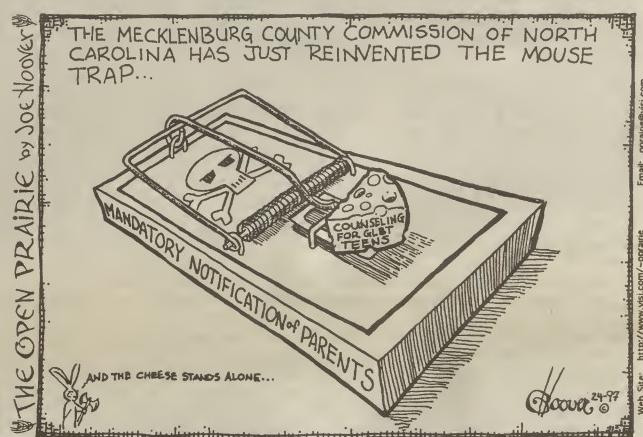
We applaud ACT UP/Golden Gate for getting involved in the fight to get HIV-positive people transplants, and for working toward a creative solution. Perhaps, as Getty observes, the solution is to use some of the thousands of HIV-positive organs that are now being thrown away.

Of course, that may horrify those who worry about HIV reinfection: what, they may well ask, will happen to those who are implanted with a new, different strain of the virus? Unfortunately, nobody knows the answer to that question, because the research on HIV reinfection – research for which activists have been clamoring for more than a decade – still remains undone.

It's clear that as PWAs and HIVers contin-

ue to live longer (theoretically), researchers and physicians must reorient their thinking and their studies to adapt to the new realities. More than ever before, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control must find the time and money to conduct reinfection studies. It is essential for those who need organ transplants (most of whom will gladly take the HIV-positive ones anyway, regardless of possible consequences down the road) and for HIV-positive men and women who have unprotected sex with other HIV-positive people.

Finally, there is some good news out there: we're glad to see that Project Open Hand has taken the lead among AIDS Service Organizations in keeping its payroll costs down. When we began the story on the agency, after last week's revelations over escalating salaries at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, we had no idea that Open Hand was planning such a move; we were frankly stunned and delighted to learn it's something that has been quietly in the works for several months. It is a great first step, and one we hope will be duplicated across the Bay Area and throughout America. ▼

Editorial

SFAF: A client's perspective

by Veronika Cauley

I am a client of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and I can tell you from personal experience that it is a big joke, especially among the clients. While it may very well be one of the biggest in the country as far as ASOs (AIDS Service Organizations) go, it is the last place that clients go to get services. They offer no programs for people who are women, homeless, or transgendered. (They recently started a new women's program, though it is not as generous as the one that it replaces.)

I have been in San Francisco a little over a year, and my first contact with the SFAF was over the phone. I came here from Indiana, and I was impressed at the way AIDS was handled here. As a licensed nurse, I hadn't worked in over 11 years. The secrecy that I'd left behind in Indiana wasn't required here.

At SFAF, I met my counselor, and a man that would later become my husband. They paid for one week's rent at a hotel in the Tenderloin. I enjoyed the openness, and the honesty of the people in the waiting room. I was put into the women's program, and given information on where to start, and what to do, in order to stay on their program. I first had to write out my long-term, and my short-term goals. I put my name on the Centralized Housing Implementation Program (CHIPS), and waited for my number to come up. I was officially homeless. I went to the other ASOs and applied for whatever they had to offer. The most important information that I have received came from clients in the waiting area. When my time ran

out for their temporary housing, my counselor told me that I could qualify for "Transitional Housing." I was seen by a transitional housing counselor, and we discussed what he required of me. I was required to show my income by means of a bank statement or deposit slip. On my second week, I was told that I had been put off the program for non-compliance. My transitional housing counselor said that his supervisor had gone through my records, and I had not presented my deposit slips. I tried to complain to the supervisor, but to no avail.

The first place that I tried to volunteer was the SFAF. I was told that they would "get back" to me. They never did. I was blessed to find an ASO that needed me. That was the AIDS Emergency Fund, and I have volunteered for them ever since. I was really impressed that 90% of the funds taken in went directly to client services. I knew where that money was going, because I was a client there as well.

So I'd done everything that I had told the SFAF that I would do on my original goal sheet, except find housing. CHIPS had been moved to the SFAF, and they were now in charge of the program. In January, I received a phone call from a housing counselor on the CHIPS program. They called me into the office, and told me that I was getting housing through them.

But I was denied! I was devastated, and hurt. How could they lead me on? Don't they know that I have AIDS? Don't they know that stress is the last thing I need? I truly believe that I was blacklisted. The

same supervisors that sit on the board are the ones that kicked me off the Transitional Housing Program. I am an African-American woman, and I know discrimination first-hand. I was discriminated against. CHIPS was originally set up for gay white men, period. It is one of the only programs that I know that has actually put families out on the street, when the client with AIDS died, and they were the head of household.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is a joke! It is raking in the money, and providing the women's program, and other programs with stuffed animals, and maybe a smile. That is not enough! The AIDS OFFICE needs to wake up! The SFAF needs a shake up! They need to be audited, and re-audited, because clients are seeing very little of the money! Doesn't the AIDS Office listen to the complaints about the foundation?

If you have a story to tell about any negative experience that you have regarding the foundation, please make your voice heard! Write, or have someone write your complaint for you, and send it to: Dr. Mitch Katz, AIDS Office, 25 Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94102.

It time to let them know that this folly must stop! Let Executive Director Pat Christen and the MSWs show how their efforts to help the AIDS crisis are realized. If there need be any fragility in finances, it should start with their salaries. Greed and avarice are becoming! The clients should not have to suffer, and yet they do! So what if Pat Christen gives her speaking salary to the foundation? Still the clients cry out in need! ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Personal vendetta

Thanks to your fascinating cover story ["Pat gets raise, after raise, after raise," June 12] we now know that Pat Christen's salary is comparable to her counterparts at APLA, GMHC and the Whitman Walker Clinic.

Why the big front page story replete with flashy graphics and that so very righteous editorial?

How about reporting the real news and editorializing about real issues rather than your personal vendettas as important news?

Matt Levine
San Francisco

[Editor's note: The story was not personal; Pat is a nice woman. But her \$72-per-hour salary is news, and is important. If you don't like the story, read the other 71 pages.]

SFAF's raison d'être

There's no way to justify Pat Christen's salary. If the AIDS Foundation can afford to pay her almost \$150 grand a year, it doesn't need my donation. I may be an idealist, but, hell, I thought an AIDS organization's *raison d'être* was to provide money and services to PWAs, not those who would profit off of them.

It's time to send a message to the AIDS industry: change your spending priorities to ensure that every PWA in the city has enough money for food, rent, clothing and medicine, or forget any more dollars from the queer community!

Tommi Avicoli Mecca
San Francisco

Bigger is not (always) better

Bravo to Mike Salinas (AIDS Ride Story, May 29) for voicing what many of us have been trying to get across for years: "Emperor Pallotta has no clothes."

I was one of the original 500 riders in the first SF to LA AIDS Ride in 1994, and worked for Pallotta the following year in the SF AIDS Ride office. As a rider, I was so sold on the standard AIDS Ride hype of what a "hero" I was, it never occurred to me to even ask about high overhead costs. And as employees, we were specifically told not to volunteer information about the 60%-40% split — which was closer to 50-50 as waste and mismanagement took their toll — unless asked. And when asked, we were to stress what a "good percentage this was for big events of this kind."

Pallotta TeamWorks (as they are now called) continues to point up the "intangible benefits" of the rides and the vast sums of money raised, but I say it's time for the community to stand up and let him know that bigger is not (always) better. How many riders and supporters realize that (according to a recent US News and World Report article by Julian E. Barnes) an investigation by the Pennsylvania attorney general concluded that at least 72% of money raised for the Philadelphia-Washington DC ride went to fundraising costs (read: overhead and salaries)? Pallotta TeamWorks has agreed to pay a fine of \$110,000 as a penalty against charges that they have misled the public. And several Florida AIDS groups have decided to drop their association with Pallotta because not enough money from last year's ride went to AIDS patients.

Stay informed, people. Don't fall for the "hero" hype. Check the percentages before you sign a check, and beware of "AIDS, Inc." Keep your donated dollar strong by giving only to those who still truly care about our community over their own pocketbooks.

Jerome Szymczak
San Francisco

Among the clueless

A resounding "Duh!" to Robert Julian's review of the film *The Designated Mourner* (June 5, 1997). Mr. Julian seems surprised that Mike Nichols ("stage and movie director") has acting skills. In fact, Nichols gained his initial fame from the seriocomic routines he wrote and performed with Elaine May in the 1950s and 1960s. Their recordings on LP were justly popular gems, and they eventually filmed the skits for television. Mr. Julian should listen to the recordings or find the old TV tapes. Nobody could top Mike Nichols in bringing angst-ridden, pseudo-intellectual characters to hilarious life; he was "mesmerizing" then, and he still is.

In this regard, Robert Julian joins S.F. Chronicle reviewer Ruthe Stein among the clueless. She recently expressed similar surprise at the versatile talents displayed by Jason Alexander in the film *Lovel Valour! Compassion!* She apparently doesn't know that the Tony award-winning Alexander starred in numerous Broadway musical and dramatic productions well before his most recent fame in "Seinfeld" on television.

And not only does Julian omit mention of Nichols's acting background. He also has to give away the ending of the film's plot. Bummer.

Marc Herman
Oakland, CA

Never forget the beauty

I want to express my sincere thanks to you for publishing the obituary of Esteban Moreno Ruiz in the May 29 edition of the B.A.R. The obituary serves as a way of remembering Esteban. Also, I want to convey the gratitude of his family in Guadalajara, Mexico, and of all those who knew him and loved him and grieve at his death.

Your obituary column provides a great service to those who have died, to those who grieve, and to the gay community in general. Our community must never forget the beauty that graced us and the loss we have suffered in the death of our brothers and sisters. Gracias.

Joe Kelleher
San Francisco

Hysterical '80s carry-over

If I had my way, Sandra Hernandez and Tom Ammiano would not be allowed in the sex clubs. They have wormed their way in with this legislation, which is based on no scientific investigation or proven approach to public health policy. The sexphobic mentality under which this legislation was created is a carry-over from the hysterical '80s when public health policy was aimed at stopping gay men from having sex. Period. All of the so-called AIDS service agencies, desperately seeking funding, embraced the primary prevention, i.e., no sex, messages required by their funders. Very little of what these funders based their requirements on was based on the results of sound research. Now, a decade or so later, we have the head of the DPH and a comedian/supervisor telling us they don't need to listen to the people who actually know what they're talking about, they will just tell us what we can and cannot do, because it will benefit them.

I propose a law to keep Sandra confined to healing the sick and Tom to telling jokes. Neither one of them should be allowed to pronounce on what you and I do in private.

Dan Solliday
San Francisco

Hockey wars

I am writing in response to Michael Roeder's May 29th letter, "Hockey sticking points."

As a member of Team San Francisco's 1998 Hockey Team, I have some items to clear with the gay community regarding Mr. Roeder's letter.

First, after numerous incidents at Team San Francisco's hockey team, now called the San Francisco Earthquakes, Mr. Roeder has been asked to not attend any of our meeting or functions due to his abnormal behavior.

Hockey is a "team" sport, and our team members agreed to let everyone have a say-so in our goals and at all of our meetings. Mr. Roeder's attitude that he runs the team and only he has the "only" vote.

The Gay Games officials in Amsterdam are doing a task that they are not familiar with: running a large sporting event. Everyone needs to be patient with their staff, and we all, in the long run, will get almost what we want. Our group was denied at first, but today have been granted to house the first-ever hockey team for the gay community of San Francisco.

I am an individual who has spent seven years promoting professional hockey and today head up an ownership group to bring an expansion (minor) West Coast Hockey League franchise to the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Arena for the 1998-99 season.

Mr. Roeder needs to realize that this San Francisco Hockey Team is looking at sponsorships in a business-type direction. Although this is a gay/lesbian event, we are also Americans going to represent not only the City of San Francisco, but also the State of California and the country of the United States.

This hockey team alone will spend up to \$600 per player for equipment, hundreds of dollars on sticks, and about \$8,000 for ice time (renting ice at \$200 an hour at the Oakland US Ice Rink.)

A lot of the members have questioned Mr. Roeder's sexuality, too. We looked at numerous gay bars to hold meetings, but his response that he refuses to go into a gay bar. A lot of gay/lesbian clubs throughout San Francisco hold their meetings at bars because of numerous reasons.

The last problem that we had with Mr. Roeder is his tacky ways on the Internet. He has written many slanderous things about the hockey team and the San Francisco gay community. I feel sorry for this individual because he comes across not only to me, but others, as a mentally unstable person.

The San Francisco Earthquakes Hockey Team will be representing the San Francisco gay/lesbian Community in good standing, just hoping to do the best that we can, and I hope without Mr. Roeder.

Doug Christoff
San Francisco Earthquakes Hockey Team
Oakland, CA

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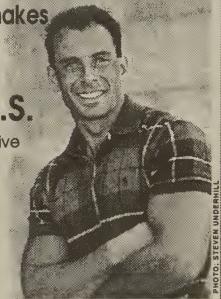


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Vact up

Thank you for your article "Phase II preventive HIV vaccine trial to start," which appeared in your May 8 edition. Readers may have already guessed that two numbers in the article were switched: there will be 30 people from San Francisco enrolled in the trial, and 420 people enrolled in the trial nationwide.

This summer, we will begin recruitment for this vaccine trial among people who are now enrolled in our HIV vaccine preparedness research study. But even if you are not part of this study, there are a great many medical, social, ethical and political issues connected to preventive HIV vaccine research which merit community attention and involvement. Getting involved either on our Community Advisory Board, or in an independent vaccine advocacy group, will help ensure that the process of developing an HIV vaccine truly benefits our community.

Vaccine Advocates is an independent group which maintains an informative web site about vaccine research and policy: www.vactup.org. They can also be reached at (415) 5529626.

If you'd like more information about this particular vaccine trial, our Community Advisory Board, or vaccine research in general, please feel free to call me at (415) 5549065, or email Joe_wright@dpb.sfa.ca.us.

Joe Wright
Community Health Educator
Department of Public Health AIDS Office, Research Branch

No deposit, no return

Thank you, Deborah Peifer, for your insightful review of *A Family's Passage from Fundamentalism*. Your clarity, intelligence and integrity in judging the book on its merit were obvious. Some would have preferred that you give it a superficial reading, but you did not. It was indeed shocking to hear that the family simply "returned" their adopted daughter. I didn't know that was even possible.

I'd like to hear her story.

Phyllis Burke
San Francisco

Pithy with a P

I, for one, am deeply disturbed by Pithy Galore's unceasing, uncalled-for, and unkind attacks on Miss Liza Minnelli. Here is a woman – a star, if you will – who has suffered so much in her private life, yet has always striven to remain a symbol of verve and happiness to her adoring public. No matter what it costs her, "Liza With a Z" is out there singing and dancing (and sometimes acting) up a storm. Unfortunately, there are those "columnists" like Galore who take delight in mocking Liza and her many accomplishments. They can't stand anyone who is truly popular and not part of their little clique.

I say, "Hurray for Octavia Roca!" and "Pooh on Pithy Galore!" I'm sure the thousands of fans who were on their feet at Davies Hall cheering for Miss Minnelli would agree with me and Mr. Roca and not the B.A.R.'s erstwhile "critic."

Leave Liza alone!

Franklin Toney
San Francisco

Earth to Oprah

My letter sent June 5, 1997, to Oprah Winfrey read: "Your blatant denial of being gay was disgusting. Is being gay something so horrible to you that you need to make a speech about it? I've lost all respect for you. Come back to Earth, girl!"

Tony Haze
San Francisco

Speed limits ahead

I wanted to add a postscript to Cynthia Laird's May 22 story regarding substance abuse services planning.

After much advocacy from various places, including Supervisor Leal, the Department of Public Health has committed \$344,385 to fund a program to address speed use among gay and bisexual men. This program will be located at New Leaf, with harm reduction, treatment, case management, and outreach services targeting the diversity of gay men. AIDS Health Project will also perform some work with this money. You will be hearing more details soon.

This is an interim program while the Department develops a request for proposals for a more comprehensive effort.

We all know that speed use comprises its own epidemic in San Francisco, and that it is devastating the lives of many users. I'm sure you share my pleasure that the Department is mounting a response to this issue. We must do more, and I will continue to advocate for more.

Dana Van Gorder
Coordinator of Lesbian and Gay Health Services
San Francisco Department of Public Health

Desperate obscure gay journalists

Last November I read a review in the *Bay Area Reporter* of a book I edited which attacks the mediocrity of gay culture called *Anti-Gay*, by someone with the name Daniel Harris.

In last week's *New York Observer* I read a review of a just-published book which attacks the mediocrity of gay culture called *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, by someone with the name Daniel Harris. Of course, this couldn't be the same Harris could it? 'Dan Harris' must just be a common name for obscure American gay journalists desperate to make a name for themselves. After all, no one would be so foolish as to put their own name to write a review hysterically dismissing a book that just happens to render their own tame old news a year before it's even published – would they?

And even if they were that foolish, they'd have to declare an interest – wouldn't they?

But it would be rather funny if you asked me to review Dan Harris II's book – which I'd be happy to do. I'd include it as a footnote in the next edition of *Anti-Gay*.

Mark Simpson
London, England

Third strike for AIDS dissident

Three strikes and you're out! This is the third time I have tried to hand out dissident AIDS literature, and this time I was mauled by the SFPD. The first time, I was threatened with eviction at a forum on protease inhibitors. The second time, I was peacefully handing out flyers about John Lauritsen's (AZT: Poison by Prescription) talk before HEAL SF after a Conant-sponsored event. The flyers were forcibly taken from me, and I, a lone 5'3" woman, was escorted out of the hotel by THREE huge security guards. This is not science, this is fascism. This last event was sponsored by the "Community Consortium" and was listed in the paper as a public forum about post-prophylaxis exposure.

I went to this event wearing a HEAL SF T-shirt and discreetly put out HEAL SF literature at the sign-in table. Dean McKown, one of the co-founders of HEAL SF, was also wearing his HEAL SF T-shirt. A short while later, the three usual suspects from ACT UP/SF arrived and sat quietly up front.

The meeting was delayed by 45 minutes. It soon became apparent why when 2 members of SFPD's finest arrived and asked us all to leave. I was sitting in a chair reading, and I said that I was not going to leave. This was a public forum, and as a taxpaying citizen I had every right to stay. The policeman lied and said this was now a private meeting. I rather loudly told him this was against my civil rights and I was staying. He then accused me of spitting at him (I was not). Apparently they were well-versed in some of the more colorful tactics of ACT UP/SF and were prepared to up the ante. He soon put me in an armlock and threw me up against the wall.

I had no intention of disrupting this meeting. Indeed, what I enjoy doing most is going to these "scientific" forums and ferreting out their biases. So far I have heard AZT referred to as a "monkey wrench" and heard Dr. Conant call the immune system a fourth drug, which shows their bias in favor of drugs. Even if we were there to disrupt, they had no right to evict us until such a disruption occurred. I plan to take this matter to the ACLU.

Last week, we went to the AIDS office of the SF Dept. of Public Health, and when we started asking too many difficult questions about these proposed "morning after" clinics (a marketing plan by the drug companies to get new customers), Katz tried to shut down the meeting, but failed (he also had a policeman at the door). I then asked the board if any of them had read Lauritsen or Duesberg and was astonished when only one person half-admitted to it. To have not even considered the other side is nothing short of criminal negligence. You would think just a little intellectual curiosity would be in order here, after 15 years of no "cure." Why all this censorship? Why is the medical establishment so afraid of a 5'3" woman who was merely there to ask questions?

Laura Larrett
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Perhaps this is a good time to point out to the above letter-writer – and in fact, all letter-writers – that this space does not exist simply for one person to misrepresent the truth to 100,000 other people at one time. According to the rest of the people at those meetings, including a B.A.R. reporter, virtually every word Ms. Larrett has written is wrong. We'd like to remind her that a falsehood does not suddenly become true just because it is repeated or printed.]

Mail letters to the editor to the B.A.R., 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Keep them short, to the point, legible, and truthful. Sorry, no faxed or e-mailed letters accepted: we need a signed original including the writer's address and telephone number for our verification purposes.

POLITICS

Plaudits for Pelosi

by Wayne Friday

This month marks the tenth anniversary of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's election to the House of Representatives from San Francisco. In a special election held ten years ago, Pelosi, a liberal Democrat, was elected to the seat of the late **Sala Burton** by defeating then-Supervisor Harry Britt in a close, highly contentious race in the Democratic primary.

Only four thousand votes kept Britt from becoming the first openly gay member of Congress from California, but Pelosi, the candidate of the powerful Burton machine, ran a well-financed campaign that had the endorsement of nearly every public official in the city (and she has easily been re-elected every election since). The Pelosi-Britt Democratic primary was hard-fought, and while most of the gay and lesbian community (like myself and the B.A.R.) backed Britt, Pelosi eventually prevailed.

To her credit, it didn't take Nancy Pelosi long to establish herself as a force to be reckoned with in Washington. She soon became one of the most influential and hardest-working members of the House.

Today, Rep. Pelosi ranks up there with the very best of them. She has been a champion of issues important to her district and to the state of California. She is recognized as a leader in foreign affairs. She has been tireless in leading the fight to secure important AIDS funding and is one of the best friends the gay and lesbian community has in Washington.

Nancy Pelosi has most certainly represented the people of San Francisco well beyond the call of duty in our nation's capital. Congratulations, Congresswoman, on your first decade. May you stay there for at least another ten years.

Politics and poker

Speaking of women congressional members, it was back in 1992 that the so-called "Year of the Woman" sent a record 48 women to the House of Representatives. In the Senate, the number tripled from two to six. Today, 53 women serve in the House, and nine in the Senate.

Three of those elected to the Senate back in '92 are up for re-election next year. Senator **Barbara Boxer** is likely to win re-election in California, but expect a tough fight from any number of likely GOP candidates. Senators **Carol Moseley-Braun** of Illinois and **Patty Murray** of Washington state, also both Democrats, are thought to be in for brutal battles as well.

Wayne's riposte: I seldom reply to critics, but some things simply shall not pass! A recent letter to the editor ("Friday's child," B.A.R., June 5) took umbrage at a column I had written in defense of my good friend **Jack Davis**. The writer felt that I defended Davis because he was both powerful and white – subtly suggesting racism on my part. The guy further ranted against my habit of occasionally referring to **Mayor Brown** as either "Da Mayor" or "Willie."

First, it was Mayor Brown who proclaimed himself "Da Mayor"



A decade ago: Nancy Pelosi celebrates her first win back in 1987.

on election night 1995. At his inaugural, the Superior Court judge who administered the oath (a prominent African-American, incidentally) introduced the new mayor to the crowd as "Da Mayor." Second, "Willie" happens to be the legal name the mayor has had since birth – given to him, one assumes, by his mother.

Criticism from readers usually doesn't bother me. It comes with the territory. So anyone can complain and call me just about anything he wants – except a racist. Racism in any form is ugly, disgusting and hateful, and I despise it. So be careful when you go there, fellas.

State Senate President Pro Tem **Bill Lockyer**, the Legislature's most powerful Democrat, last week filed papers that clear the way for him to raise campaign money for a possible run for attorney general next year. Lockyer held off on an official announcement pending an appeal to finally decide the fate of term limits. (He could be termed out of the Senate next year under current law.)

Meanwhile, while speaking to a group of Marin County Democrats last week, Lockyer predicted that California is on the brink of a "political renaissance," but says it depends solely on a Democrat winning the governor's office in 1998. Noting that the most promising Democratic gubernatorial hopeful is Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, Lockyer stated that after 16 years of **George Deukmejian** and **Pete Wilson**, it's our turn to elect a governor.

The latest DiFi rumor? Well, I had the opportunity to actually ask her last week what her plans were, and after her answer, I still don't know. She clearly would love to be governor, but also just as clearly wants to avoid a divisive Democratic primary.

Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** will speak to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco next Tuesday at the Hilton Hotel. However, don't even think about getting in unless you are a member or the guest of someone who is. It's strictly SRO.

Both California Rep. **Sonny Bono** (R-Palm Springs), a likely GOP candidate for U.S. Senate next year, and N.Y. Senator Al-

Bone D'Amato, a sure candidate for re-election in '98, will speak to the national (mostly gay and lesbian) Log Cabin Republicans in D.C. during their July 23-27 confab. Neither Bono nor D'Amato can exactly call himself a friend of gays, but have these two guys seen the light or what?

A local friend of the late famed artist **Keith Haring**, who died of AIDS in N.Y. in 1990, called last week to say Haring would have recently celebrated his 40th birthday. Haring visited San Francisco often, had a lot of friends here, and once told me that "if I had to leave New York, San Francisco is where I would probably land."

In addition to Jack Davis, other big winners in the June 3 election were consultants **John Whitehurst**, who ran the Prop. C (Zoo Bonds) campaign, and **Robert Barnes**, who handled Prop. A (School Bonds).

Better late than never: Governor Wilson and Attorney General **Dan Lungren**, Wilson's would-be successor, held a joint press conference last week to grandly announce that California was finally joining the suit to sue the tobacco industry over smoking-related healthcare costs. Thirty-six other states beat Wilson to the punch.

President Clinton's ratings remain high despite Whitewater, **Paula Jones**, Demo Party fundraising scandals, etc. A recent "Father's Day" poll by USA Today/CNN/Gallup also reveals that the President is considered a good father by a whopping 81 percent of those asked, as his only daughter heads off for college in California. (Well, the question had to do with being a father, not a husband!)

In Hollywood, the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) announced last week that it is beginning an internal program that will offer new AIDS drugs (protease inhibitors) for free to its AIDS and HIV-infected members who are not covered by insurance and cannot afford the drugs' \$300-a-month cost. The move aims to redirect AIDS funds donated by SAG members along with their regular annual dues to more directly help afflicted SAG members. AIDS activists in L.A. say that they believe that the Screen Actors Guild, which has previously distributed more than \$500,000 to various AIDS groups, is the first union or corporation to directly provide the drugs. Bravo! ▼

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Rachel's daughters

by Beth Elliott

I was feeling wooly as I walked down the Embarcadero toward the theater at Delancey Street. Wooly: physically and mentally exhausted from a very heavy workload, emotionally exhausted from the inability to feel optimistic and summon up some joie de vivre despite logical reasons to feel good, worn down both by obligations willingly taken on and a sense that not enough interactions with others are intelligent enough of the time, mildly frustrated by the inability of all the pieces to fall into place. Wooly, as Tim Robbins's "Nuke Lalouche" character in *Bull Durham* sang as he made a pig's breakfast of the song "Try a Little Tenderness," to wit: "Oh she may be wooly, young girls they do get wooly, wearing that same old shabby dress."

Yes, that's "wooly," not "woolly." Nonetheless, "wooly" seemed to sum up how I felt. After all, were I not feeling wooly, the image could have suggested a more pleasant thought: Susan Sarandon tying me up and talking baseball to me ... an activity that would have worked quite an improvement on my state of mind. But I digress...

I was on my way to do something I hoped would be relaxing and refreshing: meeting up with former colleague Mary Ann Swissler for a test screening of a film-in-progress called *Rachel's Daughters* about breast cancer. Mary Ann continues to write for publications about lesbian health issues, breast cancer in particular. Yes, this movie had the potential to be slow-paced, preachy, full of maddening victim speak, etc., etc.

I hate when people latch onto an important topic and try to browbeat people into taking that boring puritanical point of view that too often mars documentaries addressing something important.

Fortunately, *Rachel's Daughters* was as simple and straightforward as its premise: a small group of women surviving, living with or in danger of succumbing to breast cancer getting together to find out just what's behind the proliferation in this physically and emotionally devastating disease, and what's being done about it. They took cameras with them as they traveled the continent, and did a really good job of getting straight talk from people dealing with the disease from many different angles: caretakers, surgeons, nutritionists, environmentalists, medical researchers, women from Hunter's Point with breast cancer, etc.

There was a very moving sequence of the women knocking on doors in Long Island and finding household after household where breast cancer had struck. Some locals spoke of how, decades ago, the heavy metal cadmium had been promoted as a fertilizer ... and how it had washed into the sound and perhaps seeped into the water table. There were other examples in the movie of exuberant adoption of new technology by mid-century America with tragic results in hindsight: retail-level fluoroscopy (shoe stores and even cosmetic counters), massive spraying of DDT.

This became one theme of the

movie in my mind: how 20th century Americans had embraced new technology with a breathless faith in progress before knowing the downside risks. Of course, this attitude has been presented as a modern folly to the point of becoming a cliché, and sometimes a Luddite rallying cry. As you might suspect, if there were a way to find a catch to this catch phrase, I'd find it — and find it I did, in what motivated people to grasp new discoveries and apply them with vigor.

One sequence described how pesticides have put estrogen-mimicking chemicals into the environment, an excess of estrogen being one trigger for the runaway proliferation of cells that is cancer. An example

was found footage of crop-dusters spraying a town in Illinois with DDT during the polio epidemic of the 1940s and 1950s to prevent transmission by mosquito. There were people in the theater who booed at this point. Myself, I cringed. Yes, the spraying may have set the stage for many cases of cancer down the road. Given the terror polio was striking in the population at the time, however, could the people desperate to stop the relentless disease that put little children in iron lungs be judged by 1990s standards and knowledge? I found that to be a damned if you do, damned if you don't question, and it really unnerved me.

It's becoming more and more apparent that our 20th century is more of a transitional century than the century of reaching modern perfection touted to those of us who are Baby Boomers or older when we were children. We learned and tried new stuff. Some of it worked, some of it backfired. With the lessons we've learned, we're trying to refine our knowledge to balance nature and science and use our capability for fine-tuning life more wisely.

Part of the equation is that if we turn our back on anything scientific now, whether out of a desire to live "organically" or out of fear of edging into the playing God zone, we're going to miss out on solutions to a lot of these problems. We're one generation away from getting nanotechnology right and developing gene therapy techniques that can wipe out cancer like we did smallpox. The question of using estrogen for post-menopause hormone replacement therapy is on the verge of being answered by a new class of single estrogen receptor site modifiers (SERMs) that can do things like blocking the triggering of cancer without knocking out estrogen's osteoporosis-preventing effects.

Speaking of polio and smallpox, not to mention malaria (mosquitoes being an original target for DDT): would we really be better off had we not used chemicals to fight them? The uninterrupted upswing in life expectancy since the Industrial Revolution says no; your mileage may vary. At the very least, there are no easy answers — there never are for human beings.

And I'm sorry, I know it's completely tasteless in this context, but this is a movie, which calls for ending with that Joe Bob Briggs thing, so stop reading here if you're squeamish: Three breasts, five ex-breasts, found footage-fu. Yo Beth sez, check it out when it's released. ▼

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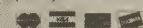
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The queer community: Isn't it rich?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Are gays and lesbians an economically privileged group, much sought after for our purchasing power and our trend-setting buying habits? Or are we an economically oppressed minority, forced to accept standard wages or jobs that do not match up to our abilities? And are gay men better off than lesbians? The answers to these questions, like so many questions about us, depend on who you believe.

Of course, we know that our community is very diverse economically, as in most other respects. We are wealthy Hollywood executives, we are mired in rural poverty, and we are everything between. So, to get a true picture of the average income of gay and lesbians, we need to do some kind of statistical survey, and that's where the trouble begins. Because identifying gays and lesbians in the population is not easy.

One approach has been to survey gays and lesbians contacted through gay newspapers and magazines. According to several surveys of this kind, gay people in the U.S. earn significantly more than the national average. In addition, they tend to live in two-income households. Thus, one study conducted in the late 1980s reported that gays and lesbians have an average household income of \$63,100, compared with \$36,500 for the general population. When one throws another

factor into the equation — the presence of fewer children in gay households — one is left with an image of gay people as having unusually high disposable incomes.

But these conclusions are suspect for two reasons. First, gay people who read gay magazines and respond to the surveys may be a privileged minority within the entire gay community. Second, one has to be concerned about potential bias on the part of the people who organize such surveys — perhaps a desire to help gay people feel good about themselves or to prove that gay people are a worthwhile target for advertising dollars.

Another approach has been to use data derived from national random-sample surveys. One such survey, conducted in 1993 by the market-research firm Yankelovich Partners, reported that self-identified gays and lesbians have personal incomes about the same as those of heterosexual people of the same sex. In accordance with the generally higher incomes of men than women, gay men in the survey had an average personal income about 60 percent higher than that of lesbians. But this difference disappeared when the data were corrected for household structure: both gay men and lesbians live in households where the average income per household member is about \$12,500. Thus, if gay people's households function as economic units, the disposable in-

come of lesbians and gay men may be about the same.

The finding that gay and straight people have similar personal incomes is a little puzzling, because several surveys have reported that gay people are more educated than straight people, and also are more likely to live in large cities. Both these factors are usually associated with higher income. So is something else operating to keep gay people's income down?

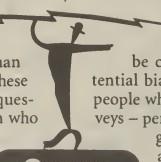
To address this question, another study was conducted by economist and lesbian activist Lee Badgett of the University of

women. Badgett then used detailed statistical tests to remove the effects of other variables, such as occupation, race, educational level, and area of residence. After correction for these variables, the gay or bisexual men earned about 24 percent less than heterosexual men, while there was no significant difference between the incomes of lesbian or bisexual women compared with heterosexual women. In other words, gay men take a significant hit in income simply because they are gay. Lesbians may not take a big hit in income for being lesbian, but they do take a significant hit for being

I'm not sure that Badgett has made a watertight case with respect to anti-gay discrimination. For one thing, it's possible that gay men aren't as focused on salary when they choose their positions. Maybe they lay more emphasis on the intangible rewards of work such as the opportunity for service, creativity, and the like. Such preferences might lead to fine differences between the positions held by gay and straight men, differences that are not captured by Badgett's broad occupational categories. Or maybe, having fewer dependents, gay men are less motivated to work overtime or to seek promotion.

But still, based on the more scientifically sampled studies, it seems pretty clear that gay people earn either the same as or somewhat less than heterosexuals. It's time to retire those "statistics" about the supposed affluence of our community. They may make us feel good, but they're probably wrong, and they also feed into a belief that we don't need gay rights legislation. ▼

Queer Science



It's time to retire those 'statistics' about the supposed affluence of our community. They may make us feel good, but they're probably wrong, and they also feed into a belief that we don't need gay rights legislation.

Maryland. Badgett re-analyzed data collected by the National Opinion Research Center in 1989-91. The raw data indicated that, on average, lesbian or bisexual women earn an average of 18 percent less than heterosexual women, and gay or bisexual men earn seven percent less than heterosexual men. The gay or bisexual men earned 75 percent more than the lesbian or bisexual

women.

Badgett believes that these income differences demonstrate the effects of discrimination against gays and women in the workplace. In fact, she uses her results to argue in favor of legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which came close to passage in the U.S. Senate last year and was reintroduced earlier this month, on June 10.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D. is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the novel *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He is also a co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.

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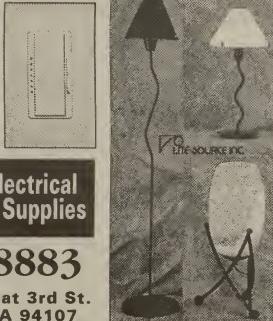
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Con Air: like The Rock

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

This summer, Hollywood producer Jerry Bruckheimer has brought us a new blockbuster action picture featuring a gratuitous and hackneyed gay character in the current #1 movie in America, *Con Air*. Last year he brought us *The Rock*, a blockbuster action picture featuring a gratuitous and hackneyed stereotypical gay hairdresser (see GLAADAlert, 6/17/96).

The *Con Air* character, "Sally Can't-Dance," is a mincing, shrieking, cross-dressing effeminate Latino gay man who has absolutely nothing to do with the plot of the movie and appears solely for the purpose of being ridiculed and denigrated. At one point, as the rest of the escaped convicts are working to get the hijacked airplane back in the air, Sally breaks into a nearby trailer and maniacally rummages through the suitcases, squealing with delight upon finding a lavender sundress. The character proceeds to wear the dress through the rest of the film.

When super bad guy Virus (John Malkovich) later asks Sally to guard the cockpit, he says, "If anybody tries to get through, you scratch his eyes out." In a brief and senseless struggle with hero Cameron Poe (Nicholas Cage), Poe is about to punch Sally, but reconsider and instead knocks Sally to the floor with an open-handed slap. When Sally is arrested, the officer says, "Hold it right there, lady," to which he replies, "Oh, men in uniform."

Despite the considerable screen time that the character has, Sally is never developed beyond this one-dimensional anti-gay stereotype. GLAAD has received complaints about the film from all over the country on our AlertLine (1-800-GAY MEDIA) and AlertLine Online (www.glaad.org). By including this representation, producer Bruckheimer and Touchstone Pictures have plummeted to new lows, reinforcing stereotypes, and portraying violence against gay people as something humorous.

Tell Bruckheimer and Touchstone that such open and ugly bigotry not only fosters stereotypes about gay people (and people of color), it implicitly condones violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Spreading hate is no laughing matter.

Contact: Donald DeLine, President, Touchstone Pictures, 500 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521-0001, fax: 818.848.6415, e-mail through the Disney Web site at <http://www.disney.com/Mail>; Jerry Bruckheimer, Producer, Jerry Bruckheimer Films, 1631 10th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

L.A. radio hog contest is
hateful hogwash

A current contest promotion on Los Angeles radio station KLSX-FM 97.1 has a snivelly contest entrant defensively asserting that he is not a "fagel" (Yiddish for "fag") or a "fem." The contest, to win a Harley-Davidson Bad Boy motorcycle, begins with an announcer saying, "Face it, wuss,

you wanna be a bad boy." The contest entrant later states, "Aw, jeez, I could be all done up in leather like Arnie the Terminator," to which the announcer responds, "More like the wimpinator." "Hey!" says the entrant, "I'm no fagel!" At the end of the spot, the announcer reeks off the call letters, "KLSX-FM." The entrant says, "Hey, who you callin' a fem?" The contest is sponsored by Harley Davidson, the supermarket chain Food-4-Less and Granny Goose, a regional producer of snack foods.

By equating being a "wimp" with being gay, the advertisement propagates the absurd stereotype that being a sissy is synonymous with being a gay man, and vice-versa. The entrant's defensiveness

also implies that being gay is a bad thing. In addition, by saying that "bad boys" such as "Arnie the Terminator" are strong and that "fem" men are not, the spot attacks those who transcend gender norms and assumes that being macho is what defines toughness. Such generalizations help to foster ignorance about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Tell both KLSX and the sponsors of the contest that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their friends and family will think twice about supporting businesses that support stereotypes of gay people in a lame attempt at cheap laughs.

Contact: Scott Segelbaum, Promotion Director, KLSX-FM, 3580 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010-2501, fax: 213.386.3649; Harley Davidson Motor Co., 3700 W. Juniper Avenue, PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53208; Food-4-Less, 777 S. Harbour Boulevard, La Habra, CA 90631; Granny Goose, 930 98th Avenue, Oakland, CA 94603-9978.

Iowa paper stands up to
job discrimination

The June 10 editorial of the *Des Moines Register* urged the city to add sexual orientation to the list of protections from discrimination in employment and housing. Five months ago, Roger Crow, the administrator at St. Katharine's Living Center in Davenport, Iowa, fired several employees because of their sexual orientation, but state and federal authorities have done nothing to challenge him. In an interview with the local *Quad City Times*, Crow said, "When I first came here, there was probably at least three faggots working here and at least three dykes. ... It was like, 'These people are gone.' ... [Gay people] are not a part of society as far as I'm concerned."

Contact: Donald DeLine, President, Touchstone Pictures, 500 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521-0001, fax: 818.848.6415, e-mail through the Disney Web site at <http://www.disney.com/Mail>; Jerry Bruckheimer, Producer, Jerry Bruckheimer Films, 1631 10th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

A current contest promotion on Los Angeles radio station KLSX-FM 97.1 has a snivelly contest entrant defensively asserting that he is not a "fagel" (Yiddish for "fag") or a "fem." The contest, to win a Harley-Davidson Bad Boy motorcycle, begins with an announcer saying, "Face it, wuss,

costs as a possible argument against the action. That same could be said of protection afforded any of the other groups already listed." The editorial concluded, "Discrimination based on obtuse observations regarding 'faggots and dykes' is no less onerous than discrimination stemming from similar characterizations based on gender or color."

Considering the reintroduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in Congress, the editorial could not have been better timed, highlighting that without such protections from discrimination on the local, state and federal level, anti-gay bigots can fire people simply based on sexual orientation.

Please congratulate the *Des Moines Register* for its call to action in the face of ugly bigotry and political foot-dragging. Contact: Dennis Ryerson, Editor, *Des Moines Register*, 715 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309-3724, fax: 515.286.2504, e-mail: letters@dmreg.com

PBS's 'P.O.V.'
out of focus

PBS's P.O.V. (point of view) recently rejected the documentary *Out At Work* from award-winning documentary filmmakers Kelly Anderson and Tami Gold, which tells the story of gay men and lesbians who have suffered job discrimination. The film was a finalist for the Public Broadcasting Service series P.O.V., a national showcase for independent documentaries, but when reviewed by PBS, it was turned down. The reason was "problematic funding" given to the filmmakers by seven labor unions and the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, comprising only 23% of the film's total budget. Even while turning the film down, Sandra Heberer, Director of News and Information Programming for PBS, called the film "compelling television reasonably done on a significant issue of our times."

Considering the millions of dollars given to PBS by private corporations to support programming, it seems ironic that they would use this justification to turn down a movie they themselves found "compelling." The network has aired a documentary funded by the *New York Times* about its own history, *James Reston: The Man Millions Read*; and corporations such as Prudential Securities, Met Life, and Travelers underwrote the PBS series *Wall Street Week* and Adam Smith's *Money World*. Conflict of interest may well be in the eyes of the beholder.

Please tell PBS that films like *Out At Work* are vital to the lives of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, and that keeping them off the air due to selectively enforced funding rules is not just a disservice to our community, but a breach of the mission of public broadcasting as a whole.

Contact: Sandra Heberer, Director of News and Information Programming, Public Broadcasting Service, 1320 Bradlock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698, fax: 703.739.5295.▼

Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

Pride in cyberspace

by Heather Shirkey

As Pride festivities fill our city each June, other Gay Pride celebrations fill up the Web, providing an international queer union—not to mention a handy information outlet for various Pride events, dates, and locations. A simple search on Yahoo (www.yahoo.com) for the term "Gay Pride 1997" turns up a moderate list of international Gay Pride cybersites from distant places like South Africa, Japan, and the countries of Europe. Take a glance across the globe and feel instantly joined in an elaborate electronic queer celebration.

Just begin your Pride tour at <http://www.sirius.com/~hezaz/bar> and let Geek Grrrl kick off the party!

You can begin to submerge yourself in the cyberpride community right here in America ... America Online (AOL), that is. For those of you cruising AOL, take a moment to head over to keyword: **Pride**, and you'll find yourself in a very familiar place: **"OnQ**, the premiere place in cyberspace for queer-oriented programming." OnQ offers interactivity through an online survey of whether or not Pride Parades are a good idea, a message board for your reading or posting enjoyment, and a virtual magazine called *Pride Press*, where you can get the latest scoop. Although the site is not extensive, OnQ on AOL presents a good start for this year's festivities in the U.S.

Perhaps you desire to feel more connected with your international queer counterparts. The world is out on the Web, and the queer community is becoming more and more united on a global scale through the electronic medium. To find queer Pride around the globe, point your browser to: <http://www.interpride.org>, home of "The International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators, Inc." (IAL). This organization helps to produce Pride events around the globe. Their site hosts the "1997 Interpride Global Calendar" listing all events by region. "Equality Through Visibility" is the 1997 international theme here, and visibility is just what IAL is gaining from Pride celebrants all over the Web.

Internationally speaking, the most commendable Pride sites are being produced by our "Euro-pride" neighbors across the Atlantic. (Enthusiasm is so high that Stockholm has already begun building and posting their 1998 Pride site.) The strongest site to



England swings: The U.K. Pride site features fab photos and other goodies.

come out of Europe this year hails from the U.K. "The Pride Trust" site (<http://www.pride.org.uk/97index.htm>) boasts an expected turn-out of 300,000 at this year's Pride festivities being held in Hyde Park on July 5th. In honor of "the biggest outdoor event in the U.K. this year," the site features practical info like disabled persons access, route maps for the parade, and a quick reference list of useful tidbits. Fun, fabulous photos are posted in a photo gallery, and for those of you who are more advanced techies, video clips of last year's fete can be downloaded. The entire site is well-organized and presented in a simple-to-use layout, while still maintaining the

true that "many faces" can be found on the San Francisco site, but the website just happens to tout the many faces of the Pride corporate sponsors whose poor-quality, colorless logo scans plaster the opening page. Mention of the community itself is left for subpages of the site. Relevant links and photos are buried several layers down, thereby reducing the significance of what makes the online gay world and San Francisco so wonderful: unified communities.

The San Francisco site does list Pride celebration relevant info such as dates, times, locations and transportation around the city. However, the online representation of our multimedia prowess and our synergistic Pride were hardly captured with the simple and inelegant graphics. There is a

The world is out on the Web, and the queer community is becoming united on a global scale through the electronic medium.

spirit of the events. It is obvious by this cyberplace that our UK allies are proud and want the digital world to know it!

Next, we can follow our journey back around the globe to our own fair city, San Francisco. Although San Francisco Pride is arguably the largest anywhere, its cry is only faintly heard in cyberspace (<http://www.sf-pride.org>). For a site that has been produced in not only the world's gay capital, but the world's multimedia Mecca, its layout and content leave much to be desired. (Even the Cleveland, Ohio Pride site at <http://members.aol.com/cleverpride/index.htm> makes use of more contemporary technology with a virtual tour guide, "Brooke, Cleveland's Pride Soldier," and audio samples!) It is

glaring lack of actual photos from days gone by of the world's largest Pride festival. To make it more painful, the layout is not even user-friendly, as there is no consistent menu throughout all the pages.

Although Pride may run rampant through our streets, SF Pride is barely making a spark in the electronic storm of the Web. Perhaps the Pride Committee here feels that since San Francisco quite obviously has one of the best and largest Pride Celebrations in the world, they don't have to put any effort into making their website look good. But truth be known, if the quality of a city's Pride Celebration were based on its respective website, then many of us would be flying to Cleveland next weekend. ▶



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Young, Loud & Proud is by youth, for youth and about youth. The main goal of Young, Loud & Proud is to empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth to become more active participants in our own lives.

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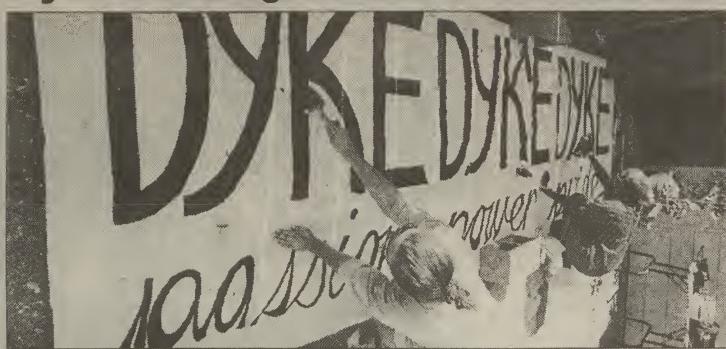
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Dyke derring-do



Jane Philomen Olafson

Kathleen (right) and Erin paint a banner for the fifth annual Dyke March June 14. The Dyke March ("Cruise 40,000 Women in One Night!") takes place Saturday, June 28, at 7 p.m. (corner of Castro and Market sts.). The march winds through the Castro and the Mission, returning to its kickoff site at 9 p.m. for a multimedia image show and dance party. This Saturday, June 21, join other enthusiasts for the DM's Volunteer Extravaganza at Dolores Park (20th Street), 2-4 p.m. Come volunteer to be a traffic monitor, sell T-shirts, do set-up - and meet some like-minded gals! For info, call 415/241-8882.

Get a running start on Pride weekend with the FrontRunners

by Anne Ludwig

The San Francisco FrontRunners will hold their 18th Pride Run on Saturday, June 28 at 9 a.m., beginning and ending at Marx Meadow in Golden Gate Park.

The Pride Run consists of a 10K (6.2 miles) run, a 5K (3.1 miles) run, and a 5K walk. The USATF-certified and sanctioned 5K and 10K course starts at Marx Meadow, 25th and John F. Kennedy Drive, just west of the Transverse Drive/Kennedy Drive intersection. (The start will be easy to find: just look for the rainbow balloon arch flying over Kennedy Drive.) The course is on 100% asphalt with gently rolling hills. All abilities are welcome. Registrations will be accepted on race day, but runners who plan to do that are encouraged to arrive early to allow extra time.

Last year's Pride Run was the first to be included as an official

participant in San Francisco's Pride Week celebrations. This year, the FrontRunners are again proud to be included in the Pride Week activities. The T-shirts for past FrontRunners' Pride Runs have always been popular collectibles among T-shirt aficionados, who usually wear them proudly the next day for the all-important Pride Parade!

The cost of the run is \$20 for those who pre-register, or \$18 for members of any FrontRunner club. The proceeds will benefit The Family Link, which provides safe, affordable accommodations in a supportive environment for families and loved ones visiting people in San Francisco with life-threatening illnesses, usually AIDS. The Family Link receives no government funding and survives only on donations, fundraising events such as the Pride Run, and a small fee sometimes collected from people using their accommodations.

The FrontRunners' Pride Run

has always begun with celebrity starters. In the last few years they have included Clinton Administration member and former mayoral candidate Roberta Achtenberg, San Francisco Supervisor Susan Leal, and AIDS activist Jeff Getty.

After the race, runners and supporters are invited to the Post-Race Awards Ceremony, which includes a Potluck Picnic and raffled prizes. Those attending are encouraged, but not required, to bring something tasty to share at the potluck.

Several local companies are sponsoring this year's event, including Now Voyager Travel, PO Plus, Bagdad Cafe, Copy Central, Icon magazine, and Ramlosa Sparkling Water. ▼

For more info or a registration form, call the SF FrontRunner voicemail at (415) 978-2429 or Anne Ludwig at (415) 668-3771.

Bis to celebrate Pride

by Liz Highleyman

The San Francisco bi community will kick off a weekend of pride activities with "A Celebration of Bi Pride" next Friday, June 27. The event will include the 1997 Bi Film/Video Fest, featuring seven short films and videos from the U.S. and the U.K. addressing issues of gender role and bisexual attraction. The program, divided into two segments, will be shown from 7:10 p.m. and from 8:30-9:40 p.m. Following the film fest will be the Second Annual Fencesitter's Ball, featuring a performance by the Safer Sex Sluts, giveaways from Good Vibrations, and DJs providing music for dancing. Both the film fest and the ball will be held above South Beach Billiards at 270 Bran-

nan at 2nd Street. An \$8 cover charge provides admission to both events (21 and over only). For more information call (415) 665-5645.

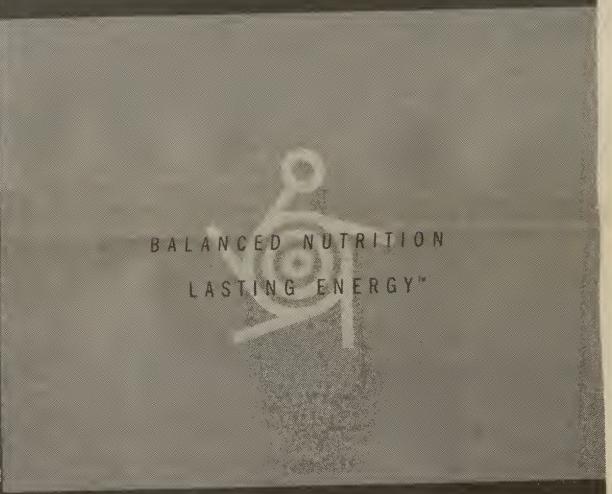
The bi community will once again have a presence in Sunday's pride parade, as it has since the Bi Center began sponsoring a contingent in the mid-1970s. This year's contingent is organized by the Bay Area Bisexual Network (BABN) and San Francisco Bi-Friendly. Bisexual groups from around the Bay Area and as far away as Sacramento are expected to participate. To find out the group's parade position or to volunteer as a monitor, call (510) 523-6532. BABN and *Anything That Moves* - the only national magazine for bisexuals - will have a booth at the pride celebration.

The weekend will wind up with the Fencesitter's Lounge on Sunday beginning at 4:00 p.m. following the parade. The party - a benefit for *Anything That Moves* - will be held at the Catz Grill at 8th Street and Folsom (\$3-10 sliding scale).

BABN is an alliance of bisexual and bi-supportive individuals, groups, and resources in the Bay Area. For a calendar of bi events and for information about *Anything That Moves*, the bisexual speakers bureau, BiPol (a political action group), 3x3 (the bi people of color caucus), the SF bi women's group, BLUR (for bi youth 23 and under), and the Bi-Friendly network (with social groups in San Francisco, the East Bay, the South Bay, and Santa Cruz), call the BABN voicemail line at 415-703-7977. ▼



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If you are fairly certain you will live in your new home for seven years or more, then the loan with points is the better value. Other factors may influence your decision, however, such as how much cash you have for closing and your monthly budget. Such calculations will give you the data you need to make a decision.

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Sonoma parades its gay pride

by Lois Pearlman

Sonoma County celebrated a decade of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered pride last Sunday, as hundreds paraded through downtown Santa Rosa, and thousands participated in an afternoon bash at Santa Rosa Junior College.

With campus police estimating the crowd at 3,000-5,000, this was probably the largest crowd gathered for a day of gay pride festivities since the event's inception in 1987.

And the community has a lot to celebrate—a county-wide gay pride week proclamation that took seven years to achieve, a justice system that seriously pursues hate crimes, elected representatives who support gay issues, a state-of-the-art AIDS services network, and dozens of thriving gay and lesbian organizations.

Many of those organizations, along with gay-owned businesses, gay employee groups and gay-friendly churches, marched in the parade, which wended its way through a cheering crowd from Santa Rosa City Hall to the celebration at the junior college.

The parade was led by the "Dykes on Bikes" contingent, which included women on bicycles as well as the more traditional motorcycles, and by the parade's grand marshals, Connie Sheldon and Michael Fiumara.

Sheldon is a self-described "radical lesbian activist" and theatrical producer from West Sebastopol, and Fiumara is a Santa Rosa attorney who works pro bono in the community, as well as a Democratic political activist.

A first-timer in the parade was Diane Giles, a Santa Rosa Junior College math instructor who recently came out publicly as a transgendered person.

Giles, who was accompanied by her wife of 34 years, Anne Giles, carried a hand-printed sign that read "transgendered math instructor." She said she was thrilled to experience "so much positive energy" along the parade route.

"It's so great to get that kind of positive feedback," said Giles, who was the subject of an interview in the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, which featured a photo of Giles teaching her junior college class in a skirt.

"We need to let people know that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and

transgendered people are in all walks of life, that we are just like everyone else."

Leisurely celebrations

The celebration that followed the parade was a leisurely affair. Organizations and vendors set up booths in the junior college's sun-splashed plaza, and audience members picnicked among the oaks as they watched performances by Sistah Boom, comic Lisa Koch of Dos Fallopia, local singer Mark Wiegle, the Soul Devine Rock Band, and the Kay Irvine Band.

There was also the traditional "wedding," led by Guerneville Metropolitan Community Church member John Torres, and priestesses Frances Fuchs and Michelle Porter. Several dozen gay and lesbian couples engaged in the mass commitment ceremony, which included the exchange of love tokens, a flock of white doves, and the African-American custom of "jumping the broom," followed by a wedding cake and sparkling cider reception. ▶



Ron Larson

Santa Rosa Junior College proved an idyllic site for a post-parade gathering.

Mary Griffith to be honored in Contra Costa

Pleasant Hill center to hold Honors Night

by Jaime Cader

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County will honor Walnut Creek resident Mary Griffith at its first annual Honors Night dinner next Thursday, June 26 at the Concord Hilton.

Griffith is a nationally known spokesperson for P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays). Since 1983, when her 20-year-old son Bobby, who was gay, committed suicide by jumping from a freeway overpass, Griffith has worked tirelessly to promote understanding and acceptance of gay and lesbian youth throughout the United States. She has appeared on talk shows and has convinced public school administrators to include gay-sensitive books

in high school libraries. Griffith is featured in the film *Gay Youth*, in which she tells Bobby's story.

In 1993 Griffith appeared on the *Ricki Lake Show* to contrast the views of the anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps, who was also on the program. Phelps angrily got up and left when Griffith referred to II Kings 2:23-24, which relates the prophet Elisha summoning bears to devour innocent children. Commenting on this passage, Griffith said we would not have laws against child abuse today if these types of tenets were followed. She added, "I'm sorry that the Reverend Phelps cannot deal with the truth."

Joe Torp, an RCC and P-FLAG member who has known Griffith for several years and will speak at the Honors Night, said he admires Griffith for sharing her very mov-

ing story in the book *Prayers for Bobby*, which she co-authored with Leroy Aarons.

Griffith recently commented, "I deeply appreciate that they are honoring me... The hardest thing for me is that [gay] kids are still believing the horrible things said about them. If kids would read their history, they would know the truth and regain their self-esteem and place in humanity."

Tickets for the Honors Night evening are \$65 for RCC members and \$75 for non-members. A portion of the proceeds will be used to fund RCC programs for young people. ▶

For reservations, please call the Rainbow Community Center in Pleasant Hill at (510) 210-0563.



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Judge orders state to explain prison activist's reincarceration

by Cynthia Laird

A San Bernardino County Superior Court judge has ordered the California Department of Corrections (CDC) to show cause regarding the continued incarceration of Brian Patrick Carmichael. Carmichael, an openly gay prisoner and prison activist, was sent back to prison for five months for allegedly violating his parole by buying three condoms at a Southern California adult bookstore.

Carmichael, who helped get better treatment for prisoners living with HIV/AIDS when he served time at the prison in Vacaville several years ago, filed a writ of habeas corpus on May 21. The writ orders a person in custody to be brought before a court and places the burden of proof on the state, in this case, to justify Carmichael's incarceration.

Judge Bob N. Krug ordered the state to respond on or before next Friday, June 27.

This latest parole violation stems from Carmichael's March 22 arrest outside the Midnight, a Garden Grove, California adult bookstore, where Carmichael had gone to quickly purchase three condoms. Authorities said that simply going into the bookstore was a violation of Carmichael's parole.

According to supporting facts that Carmichael's attorney John D. Lueck filed with the order to show cause, however, the police report from the arrest shows that the arresting officer did not observe Carmichael enter the adult bookstore. Rather, the officer stated that Carmichael was out of sight for two minutes in the vicinity of the bookstore. He was then stopped and police were directed to arrest Carmichael.

"A search of [Carmichael] and

his vehicle resulted in the discovery of three condoms," Lueck stated in court documents.

The order to avoid adult bookstores was one of 19 additional parole conditions that Carmichael was forced to sign March 11, in addition to the two conditions he was originally given when he was paroled.

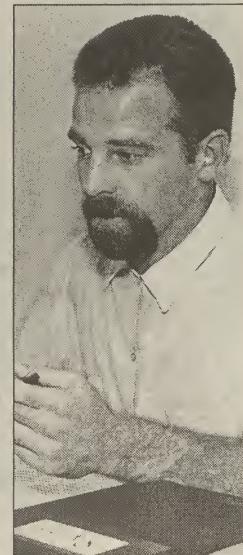
Specifically, Carmichael was ordered "not to enter, travel past, or loiter near areas of sexual or pornographic activity such as adult bookstores, massage parlors, topless bars, sex shops, etc." He told the B.A.R. he signed the new conditions under duress when he was told the only alternative was being sent back to prison, but he complained they made it virtually impossible for him to succeed on parole.

If they are taken literally, Carmichael told the B.A.R., he could also be arrested for buying condoms at a chain drugstore, since many of those stores sell adult magazines and alcohol — which he is also forbidden to possess, or even to be near places where they are sold.

Motive: revenge?

Carmichael maintains that he is being harassed by corrections officials because of the work he did at Vacaville and other prisons to improve healthcare for prisoners. "These months in prison and harassment by police and parole officials only strengthen my resolve to stand up and 'ACT UP' for what is right," Carmichael said.

Lueck, who is handling the case at a reduced fee, argued in the petition that the state is illegally keeping Carmichael in custody. Carmichael was denied the right to receive written notification of the charges against him and the reasons for the parole hold within seven days of being taken into custody, as is required.



Brian Patrick Carmichael

In court papers, Lueck said that Carmichael has no timely remedy under the CDC administrative appeal process. Carmichael was also denied the right to notification of the time, date, and place of the parole revocation hearing, prior to the hearing, Lueck stated in court papers.

Carmichael is pleased with the judge's decision and said in a letter from the state prison in Chino that he thanks his supporters.

"Hopefully, all the bogus special conditions will be ruled unconstitutional, and this parole violation will be overturned by the courts as my last parole violation was last year," Carmichael said in his statement. "Maybe then the CDC will leave me alone to complete my parole."

Lueck told the Bay Area Reporter it is his policy not to talk to the press about his pending court cases. ▼

Sonoma AIDS food bank auction Sunday

by Lois Pearlman

Food for Thought, the Forestville-based food bank for people with HIV/AIDS, is planning what many are calling "the nicest auction ever held in Sonoma County" this Sunday, June 22, to raise money for a new building.

A collection of donated antiques and other treasures worth close to \$100,000 is temporarily housed in an old barn in Occidental, waiting for its first public preview Saturday, June 21, according to Food for Thought Executive Director Ron Karp.

Volunteers will truck these pieces, approximately 300 of them, to the Sebastopol Community Center in time for the two previews, from 3 to 7 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to noon Sunday. The auction will begin immediately after the second preview. The Sebastopol Community Center is located at 390 Morris, off Highway 12, in Sebastopol.

Admission is free, and food and beverages will also be provided free

of charge for auction patrons. The auction is sponsored by the Sonoma County Independent, and local radio station KJZY 93.7 FM.

Members of the food bank's building committee hope to raise a significant portion of the remaining \$100,000-plus they need to construct at the auction.

"We've outgrown our space," said Karp, who took over last year for the agency's original director, Betsy Van Dyke.

"Our clientele has grown ten percent this year, on top of extraordinary growth the last three years. We have expanded our present building three times."

Also, the current facility, which is a series of office spaces in the rear of a small shopping center, is lacking loading docks and a wheelchair ramp.

Clients who can't climb stairs have to wait outside for their groceries or have them delivered by volunteers, said Karp, who described the current building as "just a bunch of nooks and crannies."

But the food bank, which provides supplemental groceries for over 400 clients per year, had been

unable to find a larger rental building for expansion, so when an empty lot in downtown Forestville went on the market for a good price, the group jumped at the opportunity.

A pair of local men, Jack Kimberly of Palm Springs and Guerneville, and Russell Wherritt from Monte Rio, donated \$80,000 in matching funds to launch the project, and other individuals and foundations have provided additional money.

Guerneville architect Dennis Davis is designing the new building free of charge, as well as shepherding it through the lengthy county permit process.

Karp says the building committee has already raised 60 percent of the funds it needs for the project, set to begin construction in October. He estimates that it will take two to three months to complete the 38,000 square foot building. ▼

For further information about the auction or the building project, contact Food for Thought at (707) 887-1647.

CALIFORNIA NEWS

Anti-gay gang graffiti worries Sacramento's 'Lavender Heights'

by Marghe Covino

As he glanced outside while getting ready for work, Michael Gorman thought, "What a perfect day." It was sunny and cool as he stepped out of the house — and into a nightmare. Anti-gay graffiti was all over his sidewalk, and suddenly he felt like a target.

"My lover and my son live in that house with me," Gorman told the Bay Area Reporter, "and all I could think of was that somehow they were in danger."

Gorman is a well-known local poet and the author of the soon-to-be-released biography of Jose "The Widow Norton" Sarria, *The Empress Is a Man*. He called police, who responded quickly, along with Community Watch Supervisor David Jenest, an expert in identifying graffiti. Jenest said that although the midtown area is again showing signs of skinhead activity, Gorman's quiet residential neighborhood has been targeted by a different, non-skinhead gang, and that there is a turf war going on in that area.

Two days before the incident, Gorman's son saw a teenager stop and read the rainbow bumper stickers on Gorman's car, one of which reads, "Real families value gay relatives." He said the young man stalked off screaming about "Goddamn fucking faggots," and could be heard still raving a block away.



Hate messages were scrawled in front of Michael Gorman's home.

Two days later the graffiti appeared. The letters OFC were sprayed and then spelled out as "One Faget Crew iz whack" on the sidewalk. Gorman, a college English instructor, mused, "Isn't that always the way? They hate us, but they can't even spell it [faggot] right."

"JFK" was also written, which Jenest translated as a common "tag" meaning "Just Fuckin' Kriminal," and "Let's battle" was

written under that. Janest said the writing was combative, with JFK "challenging" OFC.

However, he said, "These punks are really cowards, and these tags are more about instilling fear in people than actual assaults. These people offend our sensibilities, but thank goodness we have a supportive District Attorney's office. This will be reported and prosecuted as a felony hate crime."

"All of us who live in this community have to put aside our differences and find a common denominator for working together and get rid of these punks."

For Gorman it was a reminder of the worst kind, as he relived an ordeal that occurred when he was teaching in a Southern California high school and was hounded out of the school district by Christian Right parents. Harassing telephone calls, death threats, and an endless court battle all but broke him.

"Now here I am in the middle of 'Lavender Heights,' a place where I'm supposed to be safe,"

he said, "and I'm having déjà vu over something I thought was behind me a long time ago."

But Gorman's ordeal wasn't over yet. While taking the report on the felony hate crime, the Community Service Officer suggested that Gorman call the Lambda Community Center to get more information on resources regarding hate crimes. Three calls were placed to the Center over a period of several hours, with messages left on the voice mail.

Six hours later Gorman went downtown to run errands and

page 21 ►

A new place to report anti-gay violence

A new nonprofit national hotline, The Gay and Lesbian Victims' Assistance Hotline, is now available to assist all victims of anti-gay incidents and provide a centralized source of information and documentation. The 24-hour line may be reached by calling 1 (800) 259-1536.

The hotline is answered by trained volunteers, callers may remain anonymous, and all information is kept confidential. The hotline is a project of the Lambda Services Anti-Violence Project (AVP) and is located in El Paso, Texas.

Rob Knight, President of Lambda Services, said, "We hope that anyone with information to report will call us. Anti-gay brutality and discrimination has long been invisible, mainly because it is the least reported of crimes. Anti-gay rhetoric is so common that it is largely ignored. People are being taught to fear and hate homosexuals — and that fear, unchallenged, too often leads to violence. The first step in countering hate is to report it." ▼

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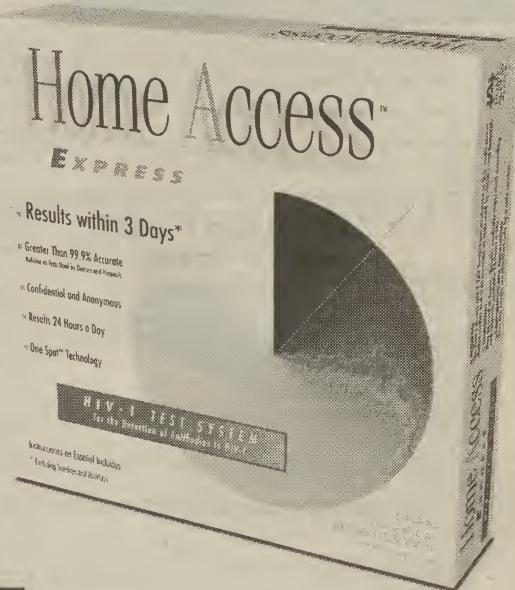
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Cynthia Laird

Joy Rucker and Diane Jones, both of the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council, confer after the meeting.

HIV council begins rigorous prioritization process for '97-98

by Cynthia Laird

AIDS Office Director Dr. Mitch Katz told the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council Monday, June 16 that the city has seven months to spend \$637,839 in unallocated federal Ryan White CARE funds. Katz announced the news as he presented a review of the 1995-96 and 1996-97 CARE budgets, which the council had requested before it begins deciding how to prioritize 1997-98 CARE funds.

The extra money is the result of several factors: the current CARE funding year was shortened to 11 months by the federal Health Resources Services Agency (HRSA); San Francisco received an unexpected \$2 million in CARE money; and some programs were taken out of CARE categories and moved to the city's general fund, Katz explained.

He also cautioned that because the unexpended money must be spent by the end of February 1998, the council should allocate the money to one-time purchases or services, since it is unlikely that future CARE funds will increase.

"If you're going to start a new project, be prepared to prioritize it for next year, or it will just end next February," Katz said.

Previously approved one-time purchases include pharmaceuticals (ADAP and non-ADAP drugs), food and clothing vouchers, and additional funds to contractors who have gone far beyond their units of service, co-chair Laura Thomas said.

Approximately \$250,000 to \$270,000 for the creation of 100 to 150 new shallow rent subsidies is included in the surplus. That program, which the council approved in March, should be available next month.

The planning council is responsible for determining service categories and allocating CARE money to each one; the group does not determine funding for individual service contracts. The eligible metropolitan area includes San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. Each county receives a lump sum of CARE funds.

For the current CARE funding cycle, which started April 1 and continues through February 1998, a total of \$37.1 million was awarded to the EMA. Of that amount, \$34.5 million was allocated among 17 service categories in San Francisco during last fall's prioritization process.

HRSA deadlines for CARE applications have changed, meaning the process will take place this summer, culminating with the council's final decisions regarding service categories and their respective funding levels that should occur in mid-August.

"We're actually kicking off the process tonight," Jones said. At Monday's meeting, Diane Jones, a member of the council's prioritization committee, outlined a tentative summer meeting schedule that has the group in session virtually every Monday from now through August.

"We're actually kicking off the process tonight," Jones said.

This year's prioritization will be different from last year's effort, which some members were dissatisfied with. Too much information was provided with too little time for members to analyze and discuss changes in the epidemic and their effects on HIV/AIDS services.

This year, the newly created prioritization committee met and came up with specific questions that will be asked of each service category. Over the summer, a variety of more specific information will be presented to the council.

Jones described the topics; a final version of the timeline will be discussed at the next council meeting this Monday. Jones added that the timeline was a formidable task, given that vacations and other planned absences by all the members had to be taken into account.

Areas to be addressed include: allowable service categories; an epidemiological profile, including live cases analysis and HIV seroprevalence analysis; who is being served and assessment of need; data about how the 1995-96 money was utilized and units of service for each category; other available funding; and a panel discussion on changes, gaps in ser-

vice, and anticipated new needs.

Council member Joy Rucker, who serves on the housing task force, talked about the need for a session devoted to that issue. "We came up with a list of seven questions to present to the council," Rucker said. "We [task force members] want to make it clear this is not an update on the five-year [AIDS] housing plan."

Where in the world is Carmen Portillo?

Noticeably absent from Monday's meeting was Carmen Portillo. At the May 19 meeting, the membership committee recommended she be removed because of attendance issues; the council rejected that motion. Portillo said she had been on sabbatical for the past semester, and that she had been attending committee meetings. Last month she spoke in her behalf and said she would now be attending council meetings.

The council's support staff and co-chairs told the B.A.R. that to their knowledge, Portillo did not call in her absence prior to the meeting, as is customary. A review of her attendance shows that if Portillo missed the June 23 meeting, her membership status may be in question, according to the council's by-laws.

In other matters Monday, the council:

- Increased the group's size from 36 to 40 members.
- Sent a list of six recommended people to the mayor's office. There are five available seats with the larger council size, but the mayor apparently wants more people to choose from, committee member Dee Hampton said.
- Approved a two-month leave of absence for Hampton, who cited personal reasons. ▼

The planning council meets Monday, June 23, starting at 4:30 p.m. in the sixth floor conference room at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza, at Market and Seventh streets. Please note the June 30 meeting date published in the B.A.R.'s Political calendar has been canceled.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Spending plan for extra HIV prevention funds is approved

Council targets men of all ethnicities

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC) voted overwhelmingly last Thursday, June 12 to spend an estimated \$512,583 for programs to meet more of the "unmet needs" of targeted populations among various behavioral risk categories. The sum represents about 70 percent of the \$719,105 in federal HIV prevention funds available to the city.

The vote was ten in favor, one opposed, and three abstentions. A second vote on the letter of concurrence that is required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was 13 in favor, with one abstention.

In addition to funding unmet needs, an estimated \$54,251 of the supplemental prevention money will be used to increase sexually transmitted disease (STD) training for HIV providers and help fund the prevention component of San Francisco's postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) program.

Open Hand cuts

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have to raise," she told the B.A.R. "We have a wonderful group. Our general sense is while we want to retain people, we want to keep administrative and fundraising costs in the same ballpark, and we've managed to do that."

Most of the agency's donations come in small amounts from a large donor base. Private contributions account for \$6.2 million of the 1995-96 budget, compared with government grants in the amount of \$1.6 million. Much of that is Ryan White CARE funds, said Kossman.

Setting an example?

John Iversen, an AIDS activist who utilizes Project Open Hand's

The final recommendation was for \$121,183 to cover previously cut laboratory costs of counseling, testing, referral, and partner notification (CTRPN) programs provided by local providers in drug treatment sites, colleges, and universities. Those testing programs were threatened when state reimbursement was cut, leaving them unable to pay lab costs for the tests to be processed.

Although the city completed an extensive request for proposal (RFP) process last year for most of the 1997 HIV prevention spending, "limited funds and high need resulted in under-funding for some populations," stated the Department of Public Health (DPH) AIDS Office funding application. Some of the "under-funding" was, in fact, no funding at all.

HPPC co-chair Ellen Goldstein told the B.A.R. she expects the city to spend the money this year. The HPPC's task force will continue meeting to determine whether existing prevention contracts can be augmented, or whether RFPs will have to be is-

ued. A combination of distribution methods is also possible.

The HPPC's task force and AIDS Office staff members have met about half a dozen times to help figure out how best to spend the extra money. At last week's meeting, several populations were identified as being either "highest" or "higher" in terms of being an unmet need.

Task force members analyzed

"Limited funds and high need resulted in under-funding for some populations," stated the Department of Public Health AIDS Office funding application. Some of the "under-funding" was, in fact, no funding at all.

many factors, such as: estimated seroprevalence among behavioral risk populations (BRP) by race and ethnicity; the level of 1997 funding for each BRP and by race and ethnicity; BRP by interventions funded through the two 1996 RFPs; and estimated funding for the transgendered and youth.

They then narrowed numerous options down to four primary options, which were first presented to the full council last month and approved, pending some refinements.

Option one, funding unmet

needs, which is where the majority of the additional prevention dollars will go, identifies the following as "highest" priority populations:

- Men who have sex with men (MSM), and MSM who may have sex with females (MSM/F). Specifically, youth who are queer-identified of all ethnicities, with an emphasis on men of color.

- MSM-IDU (injection drug use), MSM/F-IDU, and MSM/F.

needle exchange, multiple group sessions, media campaigns, prevention case management, and risk reduction counseling.

One HPPC member, Maria Rinaldi, was outspoken in her view that women were underserved in this option. Females who have sex with males (FSM) and who have risky partners, women of color, and FSM/F-IDU, FSF-IDU are identified as "higher" priorities.

The task force, of which Rinaldi was a member, took 16 top-priority populations and ultimately narrowed them down to eight. Goldstein said there was not full consensus by the task force for the population categories selected, but there was total agreement on the process.

"I feel women are underserved," Rinaldi said, before she cast the lone vote against the funding application.

Goldstein said that 31 percent of all current prevention funds targets women of all ethnicities. That includes AIDS Office and CDC money. ▼

The HPPC meets this afternoon (Thursday, June 19), from 3-4 p.m. at the AIDS Office, located at 25 Van Ness Avenue, on the third floor. Their next full meeting is Thursday, July 10 from 3-6 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, located at 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary. For information on the various committee meetings, call the AIDS Office at (415) 554-9000.

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Robertson

◀ page 1

posed to providing benefits to unmarried or homosexual partners of employees.

"Under the ordinance, if PM&M Electric, Inc. submits a bid or enters into a contract with the city ... it can be subject to financial penalties and labeled as an 'irresponsible bidder,' ... which would damage the company's reputation."

There is some question about the validity of the ACLJ suit; some observers said it will probably be difficult to prove an emergency exists to grant an injunction when the company has no current city contract.

Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz, the law's co-authors, both spoke out against the lawsuit.

The ACLJ is headed by Jay Sekulow, an attorney who serves as general counsel. ▼

Sacto graffiti

◀ page 19

dropped by the center to see if it was open. He went in and said he had been the victim of a hate crime, and asked whether anyone was checking the messages on the voice mail.

According to Gorman, an employee answered that if there were adequate funding they might be able to monitor the calls, but as it is, "we can't babysit the phone all day." Gorman reports he then said, "Don't you think you can show a little com-

passion? I've just told you I've been the victim of a hate crime." He says the employee then rolled her eyes and grimaced and said sarcastically, "That's me, I'm just a bitch, and I get over on everybody."

When Gorman agreed, "Well, yeah, you're sure acting like a bitch the way you're treating me," he was told to leave the center because he had "a lousy attitude."

Repeated calls to the center for a response to Gorman's charges were ignored, and no response was received by press time. ▼

Medicaid threatened in Congress

by Bob Roeher

According to seven member organizations of the Consumer Coalition for Quality Health Care at a Monday, June 16 Washington news conference, proposed changes to Medicaid now before Congress will strip away consumer protections for millions and threaten their healthcare.

Various committees of both the House and Senate are considering a multitude of proposals as part of the budget bill. The situation is so volatile that consumer advocates fear disenrollment options, appeal processes, and external reviews may be lost in the

rapid shuffle of Medicaid recipients into managed care and a devolution of authority from the federal to the state levels.

"Congress is opening a Pandora's Box that may exacerbate the access to care crisis already faced by thousands of people with AIDS," said Christine Lubinski, deputy director of the AIDS Action Council. Half of all PWAs will end up on Medicaid at some point.

She says that people with special health problems require expertise often lacking in many managed care operations. Under current law, the Health Care Finance Administration must review and issue a waiver to states wishing to move Medicaid recipi-

ents into managed care programs. The process has allowed consumers to participate in shaping the requirements of managed care programs, but that may be stripped away.

Expansion to cover HIV

A Catch-22 of Medicaid for most people who are HIV-positive is that they must be poor enough and sick enough in order to qualify. Some people have not begun protease inhibitor therapy because they do not have health insurance, while others have stopped taking medications so as to get sick enough and poor enough to qualify for Medicaid.

Earlier in the year, Vice President Gore spoke of expanding

Medicaid drug coverage to include people with HIV who do not meet an AIDS definition. The idea was to have states request waivers in order to expand their Medicaid coverage. The original target date was July 1 "to have those solicitations on the street," said Lubinski. "That is no longer true."

She is concerned that the process is moving so slowly, but she is even more concerned by some of the possible guidelines being considered. "They need to make it not so burdensome that states won't even try" to get the waiver.

There has been talk of limiting the number of states or the total number of patients nationally al-

lowed on a waiver. "So you've got the situation where California and New York might say, 'To hell with it, I'm not applying with a 30,000 threshold, because that might not even cover all of my people.'"

Moves at the Centers for Disease Control and in Congress to increase surveillance from an AIDS definition to HIV infection will put even more pressure on the limited existing resources. Lubinski fumes, "If they are going to argue that AIDS as a surveillance measure is outmoded, which it may well be, then they damn well better start saying that AIDS as a measurement of disability or as a measurement of access to healthcare is equally outmoded." ▼

Protease and diabetes: FDA issues warning

by Bob Roeher

Protease inhibitors may contribute to the onset or worsening of hyperglycemia and diabetes among some people who take them. The troubling news came in a Wednesday, June 11 advisory from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to healthcare professionals.

The information is tentative, the numbers are small, and no causal link has been proven. However, the FDA is concerned enough to advise monitoring people on protease for symptoms. It will gather information in order to determine the scope of the problem and will require that la-

beling for protease inhibitors be modified to carry a warning of this potential side effect.

Eighty-three patients developed hyperglycemia or diabetes while on protease inhibitors; 21 required hospitalization. The reaction was observed across all four of the currently approved products. The incidents have occurred in significantly less than one percent of the estimated 150,000 people who take one or more of the protease inhibitors.

Low-grade symptoms include increased hunger, unexplained weight loss, increased urination, fatigue, dry and itchy skin. The acute phase of ketoacidosis is characterized by a fruity mouth odor, nausea, dehydration, weight

loss, confusion, and if untreated, death." Onset was as rapid as four days in one instance, although the average is 76 days.

The FDA letter emphasized, "At the present time there exists no conclusive evidence establishing a definite causal relationship between protease inhibitor therapy and the incidence of diabetes and hyperglycemia." The patients were on other drugs for HIV, and some used medications to prevent opportunistic infections or for other medical problems. Some of those other drugs "have been associated with the development of diabetes."

The FDA is advising that doctors and patients monitor blood sugar levels — something that

should already happen with quarterly blood work-ups — and modify diet or initiate or modify treatment as appropriate to control diabetes. They are not advising patients to stop using protease inhibitors. As FDA AIDS chief David Fiegal put it, "HIV is harder to treat than diabetes."

Spencer Cox with the Treatment Action Group in New York saw "no cause for alarm." However, he strongly urged doctors and patients to "integrate this into the monitoring" of PWA's health. He wants doctors to take the time to report these developments, something they often do not do with lesser problems, because it is the only way we will gain knowledge of such a relatively low incidence problem.

He acknowledged that early

symptoms of diabetes may be difficult to separate out from others associated with HIV and its treatment. For example, "a patient on Crixivan should be having frequent urination" because of drinking the volume of water recommended to prevent formation of kidney stones.

The data released by the FDA was very limited and did not indicate whether these effects were seen over the entire spectrum of HIV disease. Ben Chang with Project Inform in San Francisco wonders if they are more likely to occur in people with advanced disease "where their body metabolism may be different." He views the news with curiosity rather than alarm. "It was only 83 people out of all of those on protease, the incidence is really very small." ▼

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This study will be examining the interaction between these three drugs, and their effect on viral load and CD4 counts.

This combination of drugs represents one from each "class" of antiretrovirals available; Nevirapine is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, d4T is a nucleoside analogue, and Viracept is the newest protease inhibitor to be approved.

The study will last for seven months and will require two overnight hospital stays. Viral loads and CD4 counts will be done with each visit. \$500. compensation provided.

For more information, please call Sher Vieira at (415) 353-6215.



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HIVCare is a non-profit program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and is a member of AmFAR's Community Based Clinical Trials Network

Sex club regs

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meeting not to participate in joint inspections of sex clubs.

Knutzen concluded the afternoon's testimony by stating that while she respects the civil rights argument, she believed it was "outweighed in this instance by the responsibility of government to protect the safety of individuals during the AIDS epidemic. ... Asking the DPH to allow private spaces in sex clubs where there is a chance that even one person could practice unsafe sex is asking too much from the agency that is charged with the responsibility for protecting health."

Commissioner Agar Jaicks, who voted against the proposed letter at the May 20 LGBTAC meeting, was persuaded that restricting privacy may encourage unsafe sex by driving men to less safe public locales. He said that he had "come to believe that we're putting more people at risk by chasing them away from privacy grounds to unsafe spaces." He said he thought it was better to have people stay in a place with "hygiene, educational materials, and condoms but no monitoring," as opposed to "turning people out into the streets, buses, backs of cars, and hotels." Jaicks attempted to put forward a substitute proposal to join with DPH and community leaders in sponsoring further dialog on the issue, but the motion was disallowed because there had been no advance public notice of the proposal.

The HRC nearly had to post-

pone a vote on the issue due to low attendance and the threat of losing the bare quorum of six members. There are currently ten commissioners and one vacant seat. By a vote of 5-1 (with Jaicks opposed), the commission failed to approve the proposal to send the letter to the DPH. The HRC vote was purely advisory, as the commission has no legal standing to force the DPH to maintain or amend their regulations.

Following the meeting, Klein said that he was "very disappointed" in the outcome, and that "human rights cannot be voted away by a majority." He urged people to visit CUSP's booth at the Pride parade to get "a sample of the privacy we're being denied."

GID business

In other commission business, the HRC voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the LGBTAC to accept the final report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Queer and Questioning Youth with the inclusion of new and amended findings and recommendations regarding Gender Identity Disorder, which were voted on at the May 20 meeting. Some members of the transgender community had testified that the original recommendations condemning the GID diagnosis as psychiatric abuse would prevent some transgender youth from using the diagnosis to obtain services such as counseling and hormone therapy. The new recommendations call specifically for increased services for transgender young people. ▼

AIDS activist from SF named 'genius' fellow

by Bob Roeher

The call came as a complete surprise. "I got it on Thursday," said AIDS activist Mark Harrington. "Would I accept a MacArthur Fellowship? What was I supposed to say? No, I won't take your money? Or, I can't take it for the next five years even if it is unrestricted, I'm too busy?"

The Fellowship program began in 1981 and was quickly dubbed the "genius award" by the public. It is a "no strings attached" five-year grant which "means to honor creative people everywhere," explains MacArthur Foundation president Adele Simmons.

Harrington was selected for his work as a writer, researcher, and activist who has not only advanced our knowledge of AIDS treatments but has also inspired new understandings in the roles that ordinary citizens can play in facilitating scientific work ... [and] for reforms in the methodology of drug testing."

The process for choosing fellows is as guarded and secretive as is that of choosing a Pope, perhaps more so. Each year, 125 people are asked to serve as "talent scouts" and submit nominees for the program. An anonymous panel of a dozen sifts through them to make their recommendations to the Foundation board. This year they chose the 23 Fellows announced on June 16. Each will receive a quarterly stipend for the next five years. Dollar amounts are geared to age, and for the 37-year-old Harrington will total \$240,000. It is the type of phone call we all wish for.

Making an AIDS activist

Mark Harrington didn't set out to be an AIDS activist. The San Francisco native traveled to Harvard to study humanities, then worked as a waiter. But later, living in New York City, he was swept up "in that great first wave in 1988" when hundreds of people were joining ACT UP.

"A friend of mine developed ARC. Remember ARC? He was 28 and didn't have a job, didn't have insurance, didn't have an apartment. I could so easily imagine myself in his shoes." In a matter of months Harrington was working on a planned action at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). "It just dragged me in. I found out, this is what I was going to be doing with my life." He squeezed in some freelance writing to pay the bills.

One turning point came in 1989 "when they cut off access to ganciclovir, and they made people go on this placebo trial." ACT UP zapped the FDA and within a month got the policy reversed. "We started getting letters from all over the country that said, 'Thanks to ACT UP, you saved my eyesight.'"

"It felt so tangible," he recalls, "like there could be nothing more rewarding than doing things that would help people stay alive, or keep their vision." It also steeled him for the next crisis, when his lover took sick and died of AIDS, and Harrington himself tested positive for HIV. "Those were dark days."

When the Treatment Action Group (TAG) split off from ACT

UP/New York in 1992, Harrington was one of its founding members. He and Greg Gonsalves wrote a report on reforming AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that led to creation of the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) and his membership on the NIH "Levine Group," which pushed for more changes. As TAG attracted more resources, he became a consultant, then policy director on the five-member staff.

He sat on the advisory body that created the soon-to-be-released federal guidelines for standards of care for HIV. And in July he will serve as a public member on the FDA panel that will rewrite drug clinical trial and approval guidelines based on RNA viral load standards.

"We just kept on trucking, and it turns out that all of that stuff really paid off last year," he sighs with contentment. "My support group has been meeting for seven years, now five of the six are undetectable, and the sixth hasn't started yet" on protease inhibitors. "We all have a new lease on life, and we have to figure out what we are going to do with it."

Harrington says the Fellowship won't affect his life much, and he is going to "keep on doing my AIDS work." That includes "keeping the pipeline full so that when people wear out drugs there will be new ones." And "trying to get a global solution and not just an expensive high-tech combination therapy solution which is only going to be accessible in the developed world." He will probably take some time off to finish up his book on the first ten years of AIDS activism, "and buy some bookshelves, practical things."

Reactions

Gary Rose, recently a lobbyist with the AIDS Action Council, has known Harrington since those early ACT UP meetings. "Mark's voice was the one that everyone would shut up and listen to." They respected his opinions. That esteem went with him to TAG, says Rose. "Peter Staley may be the head of TAG, but Mark is its soul."

At meetings to establish federal treatment guidelines for HIV, Harrington "has been the one who is not afraid to ask the tough political questions," he continues. At the same time, he has been "a bridge between scientists and community leaders because he is so well-respected by both."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), echoes that sentiment. He calls Harrington "a classic example of someone able to make the transition from the provocative activism that gains attention to becoming enough of an expert in the field (to get) a justified seat at the table, as opposed to a token seat at the table."

Dr. William Paul, head of the Office of AIDS Research at NIH, saw the fellowship as recognition of both personal accomplishments and Harrington's "emblematic role as a shaper of the movement of responsible public advocacy for health research. Indeed, his efforts helped define a new type of advocacy ... [that]

page 24 ▶



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AIDS activist Harrington.

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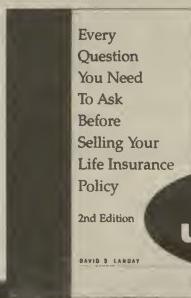
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Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

wings and continues to shower us with his unconditional love that he shared so generously with us all! The light that shines from his loving soul into our hearts will never be eclipsed!

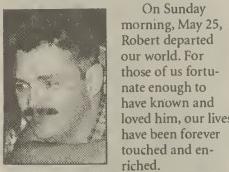
Sergio will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. He relocated to our city that he loved so much in 1993 from Chicago, with Michael Elling, his lover of the past eight years. In addition to Michael, he is survived by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Hernandez; brothers, Javier and Geraldo; sister, Yolanda; and 12 nieces and nephews. An intimate dinner with close friends to celebrate his life is scheduled for the latter part of June. For details contact Michael at 415/776-4317.

Jeffery Scott Kelly

Feb. 8, 1959 – May 16, 1997



Robert Clark
1953 – 1997



On Sunday morning, May 25, Robert departed our world. For those of us fortunate enough to have known and loved him, our lives have been forever touched and enriched.

Robert was born in Glasgow, and came to this country in the early 1970s, eventually settling in San Francisco. Though he always felt a deep loyalty to his native Scotland, Robert welcomed the spontaneity and diverse sensual fluidity of this town. Despite his eclecticism, he came to embrace the community, but also so much more. He relished the arts scene – from films of every type to the ongoing carnival of parades, festivals and drag extravaganzas. No colors were too gaudy, or hairstyles too big or elaborate, for his eclectic tastes.

Robert worked in several hotels and cinemas bordering the city's theater district. Later, he enrolled in a psychiatric technician program, then became group home manager with the Marin Association of Retarded Citizens. This was one of his proudest and greatest accomplishments. His clients and their families found both a friend and loyal advocate.

Robert leaves his loving mother, three sisters and one brother, and so many other friends and close relations. We'll miss his love, his wicked sense of humor and especially his compassion.

Bon voyage, mon dieu!
An informal wake will be held on Sunday, June 22. For information, call Robb at 415/921-6748.

Sergio Hernandez
Aug. 16, 1961 – June 9, 1997



Heaven is no longer missing an angel!

Sergio passed peacefully onto the next plane June 9, 10 months after being diagnosed with liver cancer. He has spread his

Jeff died unexpectedly on Friday, May 16, at Davies Hospital, here in San Francisco.

Born in Keokuk, Iowa, to James Kelly and Shirley Hall, he made San Francisco his home for most of the past 20 years. Having worked for years as an interior/exterior restorer, Jeff recently authored a number of endearing children's books about a dwarf-like creature called "The Poppet" and his ever faithful sidekick, "Hunny-Bunny." Despite many personal and professional setbacks, Jeff strove incessantly to attain the level of simplicity, acceptance and joy that we find in the pages of his enduring fables.

Jeff is survived by his mother and stepfather, Shirley and Eugene Hall of Keokuk; his father and stepmother, James and Eileen Kelly of Norwalk, Iowa; sisters, Anne Rose and Crystal Peterson, both of Keokuk; brothers, James Kelly of Paul's Valley, Okla., and Eric Kelly of Camano Island, Wash.; a half-brother, Eugene Hall II of Lake Stevens, Wash.; maternal grandparents, Raymond and Marjorie Jobe; stepbrothers and stepsisters; numerous nieces and nephews; and many close friends.

He was preceded in death by a stepbrother, Thomas Hall, and his paternal grandparents, the Rev. Earl and Susie Kelly.

A memorial service will be held at the Castro Country Club on Thursday, June 26, at 1 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Walden House, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation or the donor's choice.

Michael Lovetto

June 14, 1964 – March 9, 1997



John Michael Lovetto, 32, of San Francisco died March 9 of a heart attack, according to his partner, Aaron Goldberg, of Chevy Chase, Md.

Lovetto was born in Birmingham,

Ala. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in journalism and later earned a master's in international communications from American University in Washington. During this period, he also worked at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and on Capitol Hill.

From 1989 to 1994, Lovetto worked for the American Red Cross in internal communications. He then served as an account representative at America Online in Virginia.

In 1997, Lovetto transferred to AOL Productions in San Mateo. Goldberg was scheduled to join him here in late March.

Lovetto enjoyed the artistry of Ella Fitzgerald, Eartha Kitt, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Edward Hoppe. He wrote poetry, plays and short stories, as well as successful personal ads for his friends.

"Michael loved to find the odd things in life and would share them with his friends around the country," said Goldberg. "He had a joyful exuberance and will be sorely missed by many."

Lovetto is survived by his parents, John and Lucille Lovetto. A funeral was held in Birmingham, followed by a memorial service in Washington.

Tom O'Dea

Aug. 11, 1951 – June 2, 1997



Tom O'Dea fought a valiant battle with lymphoma before moving to that peaceful place beyond on June 2. Although Tom has left this physical plane, those of us he leaves behind are all permanently touched by this great man's boundless capacity for kindness and humor.

Tom was an active member of the Freewheelers' Car Club, and was frequently seen in the Castro driving his beautiful 1947 Chrysler Town and Country Sedan 1948 Plymouth Business Coupe. He owned several collectible cars over the years; his final acquisition was a 1921 Dodge Roadster.

Tom retired in 1996 after many years of service as a maintenance engineer. A native New Yorker, he moved to San Francisco in 1980.

Tom is survived by his devoted partner, Richard Hamada; his roommate, Morgan Von Rueden; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James O'Dea of Florida; and his brother and sister-in-law, Brian and Paula O'Dea of Bellrose, New York. A celebration of his life was held at his former home on June 6.

Tom moved through this world with a gentle masculine grace and possessed the gift of making everyone around him feel loved.

AIDS activist

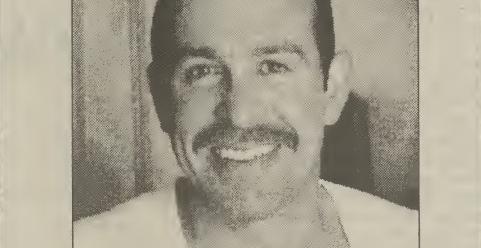
► page 23

have transcended the field of AIDS, setting a standard and an example for other disease advocates."

Philadelphia activist Kiyoshi Kuromiya credits "the work, activism, and brilliance" of Harrington and others, which "for the first time in history" won representation for patients, particularly PWAs, "on scientific core committees, clinical design teams, and federal panels." That led to "a series of victories in demanding accelerated access to experimental drugs and changes in the federal process of drug approval. Many of us will live longer and more fulfilling lives because of Mark's pioneering work."

Rose calls the MacArthur Foundation's selection of Harrington "brilliant" in "recognizing the political issues of AIDS activism at the right time and with the right person."

TAG's Peter Staley says it "recognizes not only the work of one extraordinary person, but also the unprecedented contributions to AIDS research made by people with HIV and those who live with them. AIDS Treatment activism has provided a new paradigm for consumer advocacy, which is being adapted by people at risk for other diseases." ▼



Our Eric Feighner left us on June 2, 1997. His loving light will be missed by all who knew him. As a tribute to him and in celebration of his life, his family and friends will gather for a memorial in the garden he created and the studio where he worked for an exhibition of his art. Those who knew and loved him as we did, please join us at Eric's on Sunday, July 6 between 11 and 4. Memorial words at 1pm. Contributions may be made in his name to Visiting Nurses and Hospice or an AIDS organization of your choice.

Organ transplantation? HIV+ patients are left to die

by Jeff Getty
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

People with HIV cannot have organ transplants in the U.S. Potential transplant patients are learning with their lives that what at first seem to be good, cautious medical reasons for denying organ transplantation, are actually outright discrimination and exclusion based on little scientific fact. It has been clear to many HIV doctors and patients for years that surgeons are reluctant to operate on HIV-positive patients. This prejudice or fear, coupled with a mysterious and vague organ waiting list system, has made it impossible to get organ transplantation for even healthy people with HIV.

Jay (not his real name) used to work at a major corporation. Although still healthy, he has been retired with HIV. Jay also needs a new liver. His insurance was willing to pay at first – but when they found out he was HIV-positive, suddenly he was not qualified, and further, the insurance would not even pay for a transplant screening. Jay's insurance will not issue him a denial in writing at this time. In a recent interview, Jay said, "These [insurance] decisions are based on proprietary interests of cost without any fear of regulatory reprisal, yet the corporation I worked for is under strict guidelines regarding HIV discrimination."

Jay was diagnosed HIV-positive in 1990. He experienced liver complications starting as far back as the mid '80s. A heterosexual, Jay suspects that he had contracted Hepatitis C when he was living and working in third world countries in the early 1980s. Now Jay has two strikes against him – having both HIV and HepC. He discussed his possibilities with Dr. Howard Gish, a transplant and liver specialist at California Pacific Medical Center. Gish told Jay that he would not qualify based on regulations issued by Cal Pacific, which emanated from their internal transplant review committee.

Jay is not giving up; he speaks like a seasoned activist: "If we are going to fight the system, timing is the issue. How much of a fight can I launch while I'm running out of time? Where am I in time? When you get through the shock of realizing you are fatal, you deal with all the things, and then you get numb to it. I'm not sure what direction to take, yet I am still hopeful. I would definitely consider taking an HIV-positive organ if one were available." Jay feels that anything is a consideration, even an animal organ.

ACTION UPdate

Out of the closet and into the thrift store!

ACT UP/Golden Gate is happy to announce that it is one of the organizations that benefit from donations of clothing, furniture, books, records, other items at Community Thrift. Donations can be dropped off at 623 Valencia Street, seven days a week from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or call 861-4910 for pick up. Please designate your donation to ACT/UP Golden Gate (Group 100). ▼

Ya gotta have heart

Don (not his real name) needs a heart, or he thinks he may need a heart. The reason for Don's lack of correct information regarding his condition is that Don cannot even get screened for a heart transplant because he has HIV. A patient at the VA, Don has been passed from one heart doctor to another for months. Sometimes treated compassionately, or sometimes treated rudely, he has always failed to get past being sent home with ever-higher doses of heart medicine and no answers. There is no hope for surgery or for transplant, though he has been told at least once that he needed a new heart. Don remarked, "One of my doctors said that if I didn't have HIV, I would be on the heart transplant list by now."

Don says that he is frustrated and confused. All his doctors want to concentrate on his HIV and not deal with his heart. In a very moving interview, Don said with emotion, "I have to battle for hope every day. I feel that my doctors are telling me to abandon all hope. When it comes to the healthcare providers, I am just a dead man walking."

Yet Don, like Jay, is still quite healthy and asymptomatic. Both are taking the new AIDS protease drugs. If not for their organ failure, they would be looking at years of productive lives and the possibility of surviving until an effective AIDS therapy is found. Both are being told that they do not qualify for transplantation because they are HIV-positive. Yet, when contacted about this issue, UNOS (United National Organ Sharing) President Dr. James Burdick responded that UNOS has no written exclusions for denying HIV-positive patients organ transplants – rather it was up to the individual doctors to recommend which patients are put on regional organ waiting lists.

When Don asked his doctors why he could not get a new heart, he was told that he could not be placed on organ waiting lists – implying that UNOS did not accept HIV-positive patients. Also, Don was told that no surgeon would likely perform the operation. When a UNOS spokesperson was asked why there is no written document excluding HIV-positive patients from the organ wait lists, she referred to local doctors' committees and the common understanding that immune suppression (part of transplantation) would hasten the onset of AIDS. UNOS cited a 1990 paper by Dr. Thomas Starzl of the Uni-

versity of Pittsburgh.

Perhaps the definitive reason used to deny HIV-positive people organ transplantation is the 1990 Starzl paper "Transplantation in HIV+ Patients." This report followed 25 HIV-positive patients who received organ transplants in the 1980s. Although most were still alive at the time the paper was written, Starzl demonstrated a slightly shorter AIDS-free time in HIV-positive transplant patients as compared to HIV-positive non-transplant hemophiliac and transfusion patients. In a liver transplant subset, the five-year survival rate after transplantation for HIV-positive patients was 11% lower than for HIV-negative transplant patients. None of these findings are too surprising when one considers how deadly HIV was in the 1980s, when there were no effective HIV anti-viral treatments.

Of course, all the patients would have died without the organ transplants (the only reason they got the transplants was because the surgeons did not know that the mostly heterosexual patients were HIV-positive at the time). But most amazingly, in the paper's final conclusion, Starzl himself does not recommend

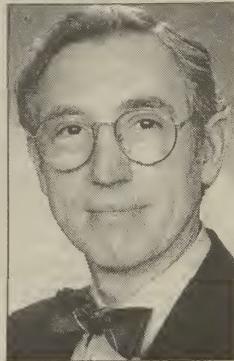
excluding HIV-positive patients from transplantation. But he dodges the debate when he indicates that it should be up to the local transplant centers to decide who gets on the list. UNOS and the centers cite the paper's findings as reason for exclusion, yet the paper's findings do not support exclusion but rely upon the centers to decide—an endless circle of non-responsibility based upon weak, statistically insignificant data from a bygone era of AIDS. For HIV-positive transplant patients, it is a circle of death.

HIV+ organs for HIV+ people

How many patients with HIV die waiting for organs? One can only guess. Dr Virginia Cafaro of the San Francisco Conant Medical Group states that in the last few years, her practice has seen at least three patients who would have been organ transplant candidates. She estimates that there are probably dozens in the Bay Area alone. Cafaro feels strongly that HIV-positive patients should be considered for organ transplantation, especially lungs.

"I don't see a reason not to do it. Other chronic disease patients such as diabetics get these transplants," Cafaro stated. "It is a matter of civil rights."

But it seems that there is no



Dr. James Burdick

civil right to medical treatment in the United States – especially for HIV-positive patients. One way to break down the barrier to organ transplant in HIV is for doctors and scientists to investigate and finally prove whether it is now safe to perform these operations. When pressed about the fairness of excluding HIV-positive patients, UNOS' Burdick surprised activists by stating in writing that HIV-positive organs which are now discarded by UNOS could possibly be a source for HIV-positive recipients. Further, Burdick indicated his willingness to review page 26 ►

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Stuck and puck

by Jim Provenzano

Who knew hockey was so sexy?

The following story was nestled discreetly in a corner of the SF Examiner/Chronicle (whatever, they both come out of the same office) in the February 20 Sports section:

"New Hockey Sex Scandal. Another sex abuse scandal is jolting the jockey world of Canada involving allegations that staff at Maple Leaf Gardens lured boys into sex with offers of free tickets and player autographs.

"One alleged victim says he was part of a sex ring from 1975 to 1982 in which group sex took place in the back rooms of the building, sometimes during the Toronto Maple Leafs game.

"A former maintenance worker at the arena, Gordon Stuckles, appeared in court Wednesday on charges of indecent assault and gross indecency, and was ordered held pending a bail hearing next week.

"At least two other arena employees, one of them deceased, also allegedly were involved in a sex ring."

This piece of not-at-all biased "journalism" was soon followed in the Elsewhere column with "2nd Man in Custody in Hockey Sex Case." The article mentions that 54-year-old John Robey, who worked at the Maple Leaf Gardens for 25 years, turned himself in to Toronto police. It seems Mr. Robey "allegedly lured boys into

sex with free tickets and other enticements."

Now, let's not dig up all the coals already raked over in the Sheldon Kennedy "300th time's a charm" abuse case. We'll get to the discussion of lurid details a la Boyd McDonald's *Straight To Hell*.

But first of all, what the hell's a sex ring?

Mainstream (read: subtextually homophobic) newspapers have been "shocking" us fair readers for decades about the "jolting" news of sex rings.

What the hell is a sex ring?

I have had sex in possibly every position known to man, and a few not. I've boinked less than your average Casanova, but more than a Benedictine monk.

I've done it in, on, and around locker rooms, in groups, and alone. But I have never, for the life of me, recognized, categorized, or consummated anything that has consciously been called a SEX RING.

What the hell is a sex ring?

The "ring" connotation has deep, dark Dante-esque implications, rituals in the woods, that sort of stuff.

A bit of it also has a morbid allure of grotesquery, like ring-worm. Then there's that group sex ambiance, daisy chains performed by Julian Beck's Open Theatre behind a rest stop on I-90.

Now, this may not be your cup

of jizz, and these days it ain't mine either. But are you "jolted"? Are you "shocked"?

The implication behind the term, and the rhetoric, is sexist, and heterosexist, and bullshit. A sex ring, the mainstream (see above) media implies, is that it is so disgusting to imagine more than two people having sex in a married, monogamous, missionary position, that it cannot be described, that it is more of an alien mutation of breeding, something foreign, perverted, nefariously concocted and deserving of eradication, and not what it really is, which is the normal sexual behavior of human creatures.

Besides, the concept of trading sexual favors for goods is the foundation on which our economy is founded.

Sex Ring could also have certain Wagnerian implications, too, but this is not the arts section, and there's more than enough opera writing over there.

The Chron articles and the subsequent shuffled-away court case (they're just Canadians, after all) will not shed light on the real facts of this case, i.e., how old were the "boys" who were "assaulted" by these crochety old men's "sex"? How often did they return for more "autographs," and, of course, to get down to the rank odiferous details, *what really happened?*

Boyd McDonald — the late

Sports Complex



Autograph this! Steve Vickers, apres la douche.

peerless chronicler of sex, society, and hypocrisy, in case you don't know — would have gone to town on this one, particularly with the juicy tidbit of knowing that the sex took place in the stadium. Now, isn't that every boy's dream, to get balled in the ballpark, to score on the field, to get the goal, by luck or by puck? Who wouldn't want to get holed by Hull?

I'd let any 54-year-old groundskeeper, usher, or even hot dog vendor salaciate me, so long as I could get a free whiff of the locker room, or even catch a glimpse of Steve Vickers apres la douche. Luckily, you don't have to (see photo).

But admitting that jocks and their fans have a sexual relationship is taboo! Shocking! Scandal! That would be too chop-licking, as my critic, one self-proclaimed veteran of the Abuse Wars, so deliciously put it. Chop-licking indeed, to wonder how these boys felt about their autographed Maple Leaf pucks and sticks, after their own pucks and sticks were

autographed in a salivary manner?

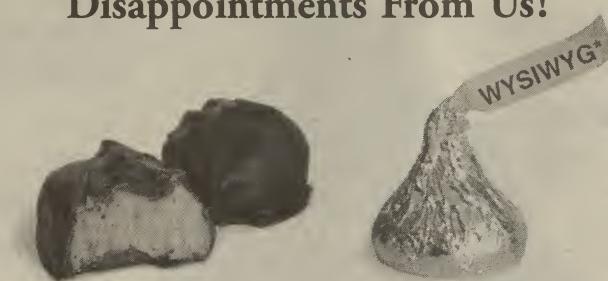
And what forces compelled them to turn in their compatriots in sin? Didn't they like the free tickets and "other enticements"?

And how exactly do you define sexual "assault" when a young man says, "Okay?" And what is it that prevented these young men from just not returning to the Maple Leaf Gardens over and over again from 1975 to 1982? Did they suffer from that common affliction of being possessed by the hockey sex demon? Or was it the magnetic power of ... *The Sex Ring*??

That must have been it. The hypnotic allure of seeing Wayne Gretzky's wiener compelled them, sonambulistically, to the stadium, again and again. The allure of an official autographed Eric Lindros jockstrap forced them to suffer the lecherous desires of the now jailed queen, and obviously evil magician.

Ah, hockey, so masculine, so alluring, so simply satanic! ▼

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ACT UP

◀ page 25

and even oversee such an experiment.

When ACT UP/Golden Gate activist G'Dali Braverman heard that there might be a way to get organ transplantation for some of his clients at the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, he began trying to pull together a research team and write an HIV-positive liver transplant protocol. "We are probably out 9 or 12 months from the first transplant," he said. "I met with Dr. Gish to discuss what kind of candidates would be available from the HIV population. I have completed a concept sheet and hope to help write a protocol in the next 60 days."

Braverman added, "I feel very optimistic. The organs are there, the science is there, and local surgeons will likely be the most amenable. We will have to create pressure on insurance companies."

In the Bay Area, UCSF has several of the best liver surgeons in the country. They have performed over 100 transplants in the last year, and the CPMC Campus has projected to do over 70 in the next year. Braverman feels that the Bay Area would be a prime place to start.

Finally, at least one doctor has said privately that the problem with getting surgeons involved is more than just a fear of their own exposure to HIV. It seems that there is an underlying disregard for the lifestyles of the HIV-positive—in other words, homophobia and disdain towards drug-using HIV-positive patients is still quite palpable in the medical arena. Given all of the obstacles, it may take years before people with HIV are allowed organ transplants; meanwhile, perfectly good HIV-positive organs are thrown on the trash heap. Still, patients place their hope in ACT UP/Golden Gate AIDS activists like Braverman. For now, it is the only hope they have. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

What's worse than 'B-1 Bob?'

Sanchez tells of discrimination she's faced in long road to Congress

by Cynthia Laird

U.S. Representative Loretta Sanchez was enthusiastically welcomed by the estimated 1,200 people who attended the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) 13th annual gala Saturday, June 14 at the San Francisco Marriott. The freshman representative's race last fall against arch-homophobe Robert Dornan in California's 46th Congressional District (Orange County) was one of the most hotly contested congressional races in the country; in fact, "B-1 Bob" has still refused to concede, leveling unsubstantiated charges of fraud against Sanchez and her supporters.

According to Sanchez, however, she's known conditions "more adverse" than that. "In my own way, I've definitely felt discrimination in my life, I've felt hurt in my life," the Democratic congresswoman told the crowd at the dinner. "I know what it feels like not to belong."

"I don't know what it's like to be black. I don't know what it feels like to be gay. But, I know a lot," she continued. "All of us cry the same, we mostly cry for the same

reasons. We want to find love. We want to be happy."

Sanchez drew applause when she said that for "those who do not believe what we do, we've got to get them out of the way. Bob Dornan is just the beginning."

She pointed out that President Clinton recently named her to an advisory board that will discuss race issues in America during the next year. "When we talk about race relations in the United States, you will see that we've never had a Latina talk about race relations," she observed. "I was very thrilled to be asked."

HRC = love?

Last Saturday's gala was one of HRC's larger fundraising events; the national organization, which boasts over 200,000 members, spent some of the evening "taking stock" of its recent efforts to promote lesbian and gay visibility, while at the same time working to end various discrimination laws.

The federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was reintroduced in Congress June 10 with strong bipartisan support. The bill, if approved, would extend workplace protection to lesbians and gays, but not transsex-

uals. Last September, ENDA lost by one vote, 49-50, on the Senate floor.

ENDA likely will not come up for a vote in the Senate until next year, and many observers believe it will pass.

HRC does more than just lobby Congress; many open gay and lesbians spend time crossing the country to speak on behalf of gay rights. One of those speakers also stars in the Fox network's television show *Party of Five*; openly gay actor Mitchell Anderson. He spoke about his early work with HRC, just after he publicly came out last year at a GLAAD media event.

"I met [HRC executive director] Elizabeth Birch about a year before I came out. I came out ... and have been speaking across the country for HRC. The best moment was when I went to Atlanta, to a HRC dinner, and fell in love," Anderson said as the audience laughed. "I would like to thank Elizabeth Birch. The moral of this story is, if you work for HRC, you fall in love."

Kate vs. Jerry

One of the evening's memorable moments came after Ander-

son started to introduce Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). Kendell received the HRC's combined James C. Hormel Community Service and Jerry E. Berg Leadership awards. Anderson began describing Kendell's accomplishments, but then stopped to let two giant video screens finish.

There was a tape of Kendell, squaring off with the Reverend Jerry Falwell on CNN's *Crossfire* in April. Kendell, mother of two — a teenager and an infant — was dynamic on TV, emphasizing the importance of equality, and that gays and lesbians have no hidden agenda.

Upon taking the podium to receive her awards, Kendell said, "I wasn't being completely honest with Reverend Falwell. I do have an agenda, and I will not quit until the day comes when we can love freely and love fully. Until we're not just tolerated, but celebrated for who we are."

'Land of giants'

Birch, who was a top litigator and human resources counsel for Apple Computer, Inc. in Silicon Valley before her appointment at

HRC, said it was great to be back in San Francisco. "I've crisscrossed this nation. You live in the land of giants.... This is the land of Harvey Milk, Phyllis [Lyon] and Del [Martin], Roberta [Achtenberg], and Carole [Migden]."

She also acknowledged one of the gay community's most generous donors, Jim Hormel. He was an original founder of HRC, along with Jerry Berg.

While San Francisco continues to push for and is in the forefront when it comes to gay rights issues, Birch said that nationally, the gay rights movement today is about where the civil rights movement was in 1961. If ENDA passes, something Birch is confident will happen this time, it will be the first federal legislation addressing discrimination against gays.

"I'm confident that in 50 to 100 years, historians will say these are the critical civil rights years for gay and lesbian civil rights," she said. "I have nothing but hope for our people." ▼

To join HRC, or for more information, call (800) 777-HRC3, or visit their website at <http://www.hrc.org>

Dalai Lama

◀ page 2

Times — and conference site picking — was defused after the flap was discussed during a cabinet session of the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamsala, India, and a meeting with Peskind and others was scheduled by the Office of Tibet.

Peskind and Buddhist AIDS Project co-leader Jim Purfield were also hastily invited by Tibet House conference organizers to present a workshop on homophobia and violence with representatives of Community United Against Violence. The workshop drew an estimated 50 participants, many of them lesbian and gay. Several AIDS prevention and social service professionals who work with lesbian and gay youth also attended that workshop.

The private meeting between representatives of the lesbian and gay community and the Dalai Lama was described as "warm and relaxed."

The Dalai Lama also expressed interest in the insights of modern scientific research on homosexuality and its value in developing new understanding of Buddhist texts that mix homosexual activity, participants said.

Reiterating in the private meeting that he did not have the authority to unilaterally re-interpret Buddhist scriptures, the Dalai Lama also urged those present to build a consensus among other Buddhist traditions and communities to collectively change the understanding of the Buddhist scriptural references on sexuality for contemporary society, according to a joint statement issued by participants.

During the meeting, the Dalai Lama also candidly acknowledged that he did not know the foundations of scriptural proscriptions against sexual activity or where

they originated, Peskind said. Participants also said the Dalai Lama expressed the "willingness to consider the possibility that some of the teachings may be specific to a particular cultural and historic context."

Dogmatic response

According to longtime Buddhist observer and writer Scott Hunt, whose 1993 interview with the leader was published in the January/February 1994 *Out* magazine, the response of the Dalai Lama to the controversy over the teachings is significant.

Hunt said the religious leader could have put forth the underlying "moral underpinnings" of the strictures — and clearly stated the basis and positive effects of such teachings.

Instead, Hunt said, by propounding the teachings without such discussion, the Dalai Lama seems to be "engaging in dogmatic repetition" and is apparently unable to substantiate their beneficial character, and because of his response, the validity of the teachings have been cast "into serious doubt."

Vigorous debate about such issues and exception to the views of religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama are neither heresy nor disrespectful in Buddhist traditions.

"In fact, it's the practitioner's duty to examine dogmatic views and to determine their validity," Hunt said.

During the private session, the religious teacher told the activists they would have a harder time changing Buddhist scripture and tradition than advocating for their

human rights based on Buddhist principles, according to Peskind.

Organized for the Office of Tibet by attorney Eva Herzer, president of the International Committee of Lawyers For Tibet, the historic meeting included Herzer, Peskind, Buddhist Peace Fellowship activist and Claremont Graduate School Professor of Education Lourdes Arguelles, and Jose Ignacio Cabezon, a gay Buddhist scholar and professor at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado.

Other participants included the Ven. K.T. Sheldrup Gyatso, a fully ordained and openly gay Buddhist monk and teacher who is the spiritual director of the San Jose Tibetan Temple; International Gay And Lesbian Human Rights

Commission co-chair Tinku Ali Ishtiaq; and former Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Rabbi Yoel Khan.

"There is still room for movement," Ishtiaq told the *Bay Area Reporter*. But the human rights activist said the Dalai Lama's support for lesbian and gay rights is "very significant."

Ishtiaq said that the Nobel laureate commands tremendous respect around the world and hoped the leader's historic statement would have "considerable impact on non-Buddhist religious traditions."

A conference on Buddhism, sex, gender, and diversity issues is being planned, following the historic meeting with the world religious leader. ▼

HRC's 'Ride for Rights' is latest bike event

by Cynthia Laird

The Human Rights Campaign will hold its first "Ride for Rights" in a few short months, on September 14. Cyclists in the early morning 20-mile ride will start in Golden Gate Park, go out to the ocean, and loop back, after which HRC volunteers will wait on the riders at a pancake breakfast. The ride is open to all ages and abilities — there is also a 15-mile option — and kids and families are welcome.

Proceeds will benefit Breast Cancer Action. Registration is nominal at \$25 per rider; it goes up to \$30 after September 1, organizers said. Those who just want to attend the breakfast can do so for \$15.

The ride is part of HRC's 1997

commitment to increasing awareness of lesbian health issues; research has shown that lesbians may be at increased risk for certain diseases, such as breast and cervical cancer.

Breast Cancer Action is a non-profit organization based in San Francisco that provides information and support for women and men with cancer, and to their families and loved ones.

Because the event is limited to 200 participants, those who are interested should register early, said HRC volunteers, who are organizing and running the event. ▼

For registration forms or more information, call Dave Lowry, (415) 647-0556 or Fiona Martin, (415) 648-0922. The September 14 ride starts at 8 a.m. at Marx Meadow;

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214285

The following person(s) are doing business as CHURCH STREET BED & BREAKFAST, INC. 6 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114-1718: Michael John Jendriza, 322 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114-1718; John Warren Marshall, 325 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114-1718. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1997. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Michael John Jendriza. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 23, 1997.

May 29, June 5, 11, 19, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214237

The following person(s) are doing business as THE LIVING EARTH HEALTH STORE, 8139 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122: Teresa L.S. Wong; 406 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 21, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Teresa Wong. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 21, 1997.

May 29, June 5, 11, 19, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214217

The following person(s) are doing business as VENTURE OUT, 575 Pierce St. #604, San Francisco, CA 94117: Robert Alan Driscoll, 575 Pierce St. #604, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Robert A. Driscoll. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 4, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214343

The following person(s) are doing business as VENTURE OUT, 575 Pierce St. #604, San Francisco, CA 94117: Robert Alan Driscoll, 575 Pierce St. #604, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Robert A. Driscoll. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 4, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214346

The following person(s) are doing business as DENISE'S NUTRITIONAL CONSULTING, 284 Noe St., San Francisco, CA 94114: Denise Buzubuzan, 1648 Grove St.,

San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 28, 1997. This business is conducted by a homeowner's association non-profit corporation. Signed Vicki Powell, secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 27, 1997.

June 11, 19, 26, July 3, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214325

The following person(s) are doing business as DRUM & COMPANY, 151 Vermont St., San Francisco, CA 94103: John Drum, Jr., 2113 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

Registrant(s) commenced business under the date of 1982. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Drum, Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 4, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, July 3, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214326

The following person(s) are doing business as CONNECTICUT CONDO ASSOCIATION, 1113 Connecticut St., San Francisco, CA 94107: California/Connecticut Condo Association, 221 Tulara St., Brisbane, CA 94005. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 28, 1997. This business is conducted by a homeowner's association non-profit corporation. Signed Vicki Powell, secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 27, 1997.

June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 1997.

LEGAL SERVICES

PERSONAL

San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 25, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Denise Buzubuzan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 28, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214433

The following person(s) are doing business as HERBAL VITA HEALTH STORE, 1839 Irving St., San Francisco, CA 94122: Teresa Wong, 406 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 30, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Teresa Wong. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 30, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214421

The following person(s) are doing business as BLACK DIAMOND ENTERPRISES, 176 San Carlos St., San Francisco, CA 94110: Walkerlene Grenland, 176 San Carlos St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Walkerlene Grenland. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 27, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214520

The following person(s) are doing business as AMERICANO, INC. 6 Joost Ave., San Francisco, CA 94131: Americano, Inc., 6 Joost Ave., San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 20, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Igor Cherwas, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 20, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214537

The following person(s) are doing business as PILLINO PATAMAYAN, 250 Kearny St., #500, San Francisco, CA 94108: Velle V. Whitehawk, 250 Kearny St., #500, San Francisco, CA 94108. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 9, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Velle V. Whitehawk. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 9, 1997.

June 11, 19, 26, July 3, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214325

The following person(s) are doing business as DRUM & COMPANY, 151 Vermont St., San Francisco, CA 94103: John Drum, Jr., 2113 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94115. Registrant(s) commenced business under the date of 1982. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Drum, Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 4, 1997.

June 5, 11, 19, 26, July 3, 10, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214326

The following person(s) are doing business as CONNECTICUT CONDO ASSOCIATION, 1113 Connecticut St., San Francisco, CA 94107: California/Connecticut Condo Association, 221 Tulara St., Brisbane, CA 94005. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 28, 1997. This business is conducted by a homeowner's association non-profit corporation. Signed Vicki Powell, secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 27, 1997.

June 19, 26, July 3, 10, 1997.

FINITIOTUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 214325

The following person(s) are doing business as DRUM & COMPANY, 151 Vermont St., San Francisco, CA 94103: John Drum, Jr., 2113 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94115. Registrant(s) commenced business under the date of 1982. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Drum, Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 4, 1997.

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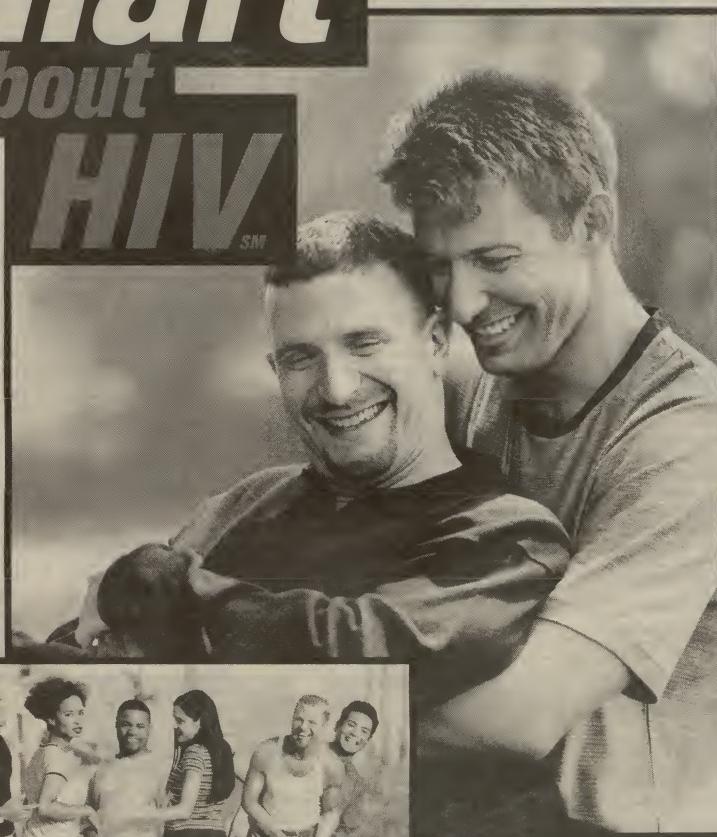
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FEBRUARY 1997

'97 Lesbian and Gay Film Festival
offers everything from Hong Kong
genderbenders to lesbians in the military.
pages 36 - 40

Author Bill Mann
on his fiction debut,
'The Men from the Boys.'
page 45



'In the Life' looks
at the many faces of
anti-queer oppression.
page 41



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 27 • No. 25 • 19 June 1997

The beat goes on

Drummer for fabled '70s band Buena Vista returns to town on 'Spunkadelic' tour

by Daniel Mangin

When I drop by drummer Richard Dworkin's Chelsea apartment earlier this month to chat about his days with the 1970s gay band Buena Vista and his upcoming engagement at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, he's watching an ancient *Lawrence Welk* show on public television, transfixed by a whey-faced honky who's reciting more than singing the words to the patriotic '60s hit "Ballad of the Green Berets."

"Amaaaaaazing, listen to that."

I know from his list of credits that his musical tastes are eclectic — Dworkin has played with everyone from Deborah Harry and Alex Chilton to Edwin Hawkins and Dr. John (not to mention opening for the Monkees' Peter Tork on Haight Street in the early 1970s). And he produced the first album of the gay a cappella group the Flirtations as well as the two solo albums of his late lover Michael Callen. But military ballads, too?

I muse to Dworkin that it's going to be difficult to segue smoothly from Lawrence Welk to gay music, but just then "Green Berets" gives way to a medley sung by some juicy-looking hunks, each in the uniform of a different branch of the military. They're obviously the prototype for the Village People — who knew Welk was responsible?

Dworkin seems at first reluctant to talk about his time with Buena Vista. It's not until I ask him what playing in a gay band meant to him during the '70s and what the music meant to a gay audience that he warms to the subject.

"You want to know the truth? I've played some great gigs, the Berlin Jazz Festival and with some of my musical heroes like Mick Taylor and the Memphis Horns, but none of them compares to the first time Buena Vista played The Stud. The feeling of playing in a band with other gay guys in front of a gay audience was just incredible."

"It's hard for some people to remember, but back then there were some things that everyone thought fags couldn't do. One of them was to be in a rock band — play bass, guitar, drums. It seems silly now when there are lesbian and gay police groups and queer professional organizations, but even some gay people bought into the limitations. In our own small way, Buena Vista broke down a few of those barriers."

Buena Vista's original line-up included bass player Freddy Gray, Joe Johnson on piano, and singers Terry Hutchison (these days the manager at the Paradise Lounge on Folsom Street), Michael Gomes, and Kenny Ross.

The band may have sung mostly covers, but Dworkin says that when he recently listened to some old tapes, he was reminded that many of the songs had "whole different meanings for gay people — 'You Can't Hide Love,' 'He's a Rebel.' The documentary *Word Is Out* ended with our cover of 'Our Day Will Come.' No

page 44 ►



Richard Dworkin

Queer cinema milestone

Arthur Bressan's 'Gay U.S.A.' turns 20 by Gary Morris

Porn directors aren't usually known for their political consciousness; usually they're too busy trying to resuscitate an exhausted fluffer, or searching for a lost dildo, to consider the world outside the set. So it was a bit surprising when the late pornmeister Arthur Bressan decided to put together footage from every major Gay Pride parade or queer march that happened in June 1977. The resulting film was an historic look at a key moment in queer history — pre-AIDS and just before the dawn of modern queer activism — that still resonates today.

Gay U.S.A. offers a thumbnail history of its subject in the comments of some of its participants. The first parades, according to one man who was there from the beginning, were entirely political, "aimed at gay liberation." Eventually, they expanded into the more celebratory events we know today, though there was always a palpable political dimension, perhaps because so many of the early queer activists had come of age

page 42 ►



The 1997 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival will host the 20th anniversary screening of *Gay U.S.A.* on Thursday, June 26 (2 p.m.), at the Castro Theatre.

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OUT THERE



Style to spare: on the *Valley of the Dolls* set with Patty Duke, director Mark Robson, Lee Grant, producer David Weisbart, Jacqueline Susann, and Barbara Parkins in July of 1967. Photo courtesy of Allen White.

by Chris Culwell and
Pithy Galore

Homosexuals are forever patting themselves on the back for their supposedly highly developed aesthetic sensibilities. Yet anybody who didn't know better would think that this year's Pride Parade logo and program had been designed by accident, perhaps by a deranged pigeon who got within pecking distance of a Macintosh computer. With it's dated, vintage '70s typefaces and pixelated photographs, the program has all the design savvy of a church bulletin from some Midwest backwater.

What are we to make of this artistic calamity? We almost didn't recognize Dennis Peron, whose ordinarily handsome face has been stretched to such gross proportions that he looks like one of those aliens on *The X Files*. And though it was very conscientious of the Pride Parade Committee to include people of color and the disabled on the cover, the photos have been so poorly reproduced that their inclusion suggests an 11th hour fit of political correctness, not an inspired design idea. Tokenism by any other name.

Art Director Denise Ratliff's new logo comes off more as a hastily slapped-together inside joke, with its picture scrapbook sampling of people, including four Parade Marshalls.

Although the program is brimming over with bromides about community spirit and togetherness, we couldn't help but notice a rancorously toned, off-color disclaimer at the bottom of page 5, the gist of which says the

logo "was not designed by Jorge Alonso, nor was it derivative of his concept."

Mr. Alonso, a graphic artist who freelances with the B.A.R., is relieved to hear that. He would never want anyone to confuse the design he submitted to the Pride committee's Logo Design Contest several months ago with the hack-work the world will see on Sunday, June 29.

This is not a case of artistic sour grapes. Alonso's design was chosen by the Pride committee as the contest winner. Later, someone close to Pride committee potentate Deborah Oakley-Melvin decided she no longer liked Alonso's work and picked something else — without informing Alonso. So much for community spirit, the power of consensus, and pious filiality.

Jackie with an S

Filmmaker and event producer Marc Huestis, the brains behind Castro Theatre blow-outs *A John Waters' X-mas* and *The Poseidon Event-ure*, was surprised the other day by a call from a London *Sunday Times* reporter who wanted to get the lowdown on the big Jacqueline Susann revival supposedly going on in America. "What revival?" thought Huestis. Although the producer's next big Castro Theatre spectacle is a 30th anniversary screening of the 1967 camp classic *Valley of the Dolls*, the movie based on Susann's most famous novel, he had no idea his event was part of a Susann renaissance. Yet, as per *Sunday Times'* Wendy Leigh, Susann, who's been dead since the '70s, is hotter than ever. Not only are the



page 58 ►

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Cypherville

'Broadway Damage'

by Chad Jones

Part of the fun of going to movies at the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is the discovery of queer cinema that inspires you to leave the movie theater intent on righting wrongs, reclaiming history or, if you're so inspired, falling in love. The new movie *Broadway Damage* should be one of those uplifting romances that spurs sentimental moviegoers to flights of heart-shaped fancy. Unfortunately, the film, though intermittently charming and humorous, never quite musters the coherence needed to become the valentine it wants to be.

Director, writer, and editor Victor Mignatti, whose short film *Film For Two* found success at the 1982 Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, makes his feature debut with *Broadway Damage*, and his inexperience with extended narrative shows. At nearly two hours, this light comic romance runs out of steam quickly and doesn't pick up until the last 15 minutes, when the romantically confused plot finally starts to pay off.

Even the appealing cast can't quite make Mignatti's all-too-familiar plot and characters come to life. Handsome Michael Shawn Lucas is Marc, a struggling actor who lives in a great Greenwich Village flat with Cynthia, played by Mara Hobel, whom many will remember as a tormented young Christina Crawford in *Mommie Dearest*. Cynthia is a spoiled, rich Daddy's girl who can't seem to make it in the real world. She's the kind of person who fills her days with talk TV when she isn't calling publisher Tina Brown's office trying to get an interview for a job. She shops frequently, acces-

Mara Hobel in Victor Mignatti's *Broadway Damage*.

sorizes beautifully, and quips incessantly. In a moment of stress she advises herself, "When in doubt, do what Madonna would do!"

Marc and Cynthia have the typical fag/fag hag roommate relationship — they're girlfriends. Hobel's performance is ingratiating, but there's nothing to Cynthia beyond her one-liners and zaftig couture. Marc is almost as empty. His best feature is his good friend Robert, played by the charming Aaron Williams, who comes across as sort of a cute, gay Woody Allen. He's not quite as nebbishy as Allen, but he definitely has that smart, gangly loner persona going for him. Robert is, of course, in love with Marc, but the cuter and more buff Marc only dates men he rates as tens on his out-of-whack scale.

Until Robert reveals his feelings to Marc, *Broadway Damage* ambles along with nothing much going on. In his quest for perfec-

tion, Marc hooks up with a sleazy songwriter (Hugh Panaro), but soon discovers the error of his ways. Mignatti spends too much time focusing on Marc, attempting to make him a pretty boy Everyman — a modern-day romantic who sleeps around but still believes, however misguided, in the fairy tale truth of show tunes (hence the title). But the real Everyman is geeky Robert. His story and his ill-fated quest for love is far more interesting and real than anything else in the picture.

The film is handsomely shot by Michael Mayers, who makes New York City glow invitingly. Alas, the story Victor Mignatti serves up in *Broadway Damage* pales in comparison to the scenery. ▼

Broadway Damage screens June 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Roxie Theatre.

Madchen in elementary school

'Hide and Seek' by Su Friedrich

by Erin Blackwell

Anyone who ever used to be a child may locate part of their forgotten self in *Hide and Seek*, experimental auteur Su Friedrich's evocation of growing up lesbian in the '60s.

Known as a sophisticated nonlinear storyteller, Friedrich, working in collaboration with writer Cathy Nan Quinlan, manages here to combine complexity with easy access. Viewers will have no difficulty getting involved in this coming-of-age story featuring Lou (Chels Holland), a gangly, self-possessed tomboy who's just one of the girls, except for when she isn't.

Friedrich, in her first attempt at directing other people, has gotten gem performances out of Holland and company — Alicia Manta as the budding bitch and Ariel Mara as the plain old sympathetic pal who'll probably go straight but won't make a big deal out of it. These young performers bring real dignity to the life-and-death struggles of identity and relationships being hashed out on the playground.

Shot in glorious black-and-white, with an unobtrusive eye for

Chels Holland as Lou in Su Friedrich's *Hide and Seek*.

period detail, the film includes such highlights of early school experience as the epithet "lezzie," assembly hall, sex education class (look for Friedrich in the role of the cranky teacher), and a slumber party.

But that's not all. Putting this evocation in perspective are the talking heads of Friedrich's contemporaries, who reminisce about their earliest erotic memories. These women seem unusually gifted at talking about their

younger selves without deforming their experience to fit prefab ideological categories. What emerges is a sense of an original self that could or would not conform to expectation, but was nonetheless damaged, if not lost, through contact with the hostile forces of socialization.

As a stand-in for those forces Friedrich has culled from the archives some telling examples of those spine-tingling public service

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FILM FESTIVAL

What's up, docs?

Documentaries galore in the San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

by Robert Julian

Filmed for Cinemax by Elton John's boyfriend, David Furnish, this standard rockumentary shows the performer at home and on the road for his most recent world tour. We see Elton at his English country estate, Elton onstage, and Elton in hotels, airplanes and recording studios. In the beginning of the film, John explains that he agreed to this documentary because he wanted people to know more about him as a person — to know more about his private life. We learn that his work is his private life, and that relaxation is almost an impossibility, before, during or after his 108-concert tour. The star emerges as an obsessive-compulsive workaholic — neurotic, abusive, selfish and generally unlikeable. From behind the camera, filmmaker Furnish suggests that John needs more balance in his life. Furnish asks, "What is balance to you?" John stares blankly at the camera and replies, "I don't know." File this one under lifestyles of the rich and fatuous.

Elton John: Tantrums and Tiaras plays the Victoria Theatre, June 25, 10:30 p.m.

Thy name is vanity

Director Baillie Walsh follows drag diva Consuela Cosmetica around Manhattan for 18 months. Consuela, a cabaret performer and occasional prostitute, remains unflinchingly honest and often perceptive about her life and extraordinary choices. Beautifully photographed, *Mirror, Mirror* is not for the squeamish. This story of a chick with a great big dick is fascinating, repulsive, complex, powerful and more than a little depressing. Walsh has objectively documented a fabulous and horrible life led on the margins of society — a life that is ultimately terminated by AIDS. The opening title sequence is great, as are the



In *Elton John: Tantrums and Tiaras*, the director, David Furnish (John's partner) was given permission to film all.

closing credits in which Consuela tears into Shirley Bassey's "The Greatest Performance of My Life." When the screen finally fades to black, you will be speechless.

Mirror, Mirror plays the Victoria Theatre, June 26, 9:30 p.m.

Passion and compassion

Despite its off-putting title, this is an excellent, engrossing documentary that focuses on the lives of several female-to-male transsexuals. Directors Candace Schermerhorn and Bestor Cram wisely give most of the screen time to the men themselves, who discuss the many physical and psychological hurdles of their gender reassignment. Nicely photographed and intelligently assembled in a coherent and logical fashion, this film gently leads the uninitiated into the sex-change process and its impact on the friends and families of the subjects. Everything you ever wanted to know, and many things you

never thought about, are all on the table for public consumption. Along the way, the film's cinematic revelations force the viewer to contemplate precisely what it means to be a man. This is documentary filmmaking at its best — passion, compassion, insight and humor are all present in equal measure. Opening and closing credits unfold to the accompaniment of the old Chordettes hit, "Mr. Sandman" — a wonderfully

goofy coda which, in context, is laden with irony.

You Don't Know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men plays the Victoria Theatre, June 27, 7:30 p.m.

Messy, messy

Produced for Britain's queer-friendly Channel Four, *A Bit of Scarlet* offers a tongue-in-cheek look at the history of homosexual-

ity in British film. This cinematic montage is framed by the unofficial rules of queer conduct on celluloid, as defined by director Andrea Weiss and her collaborator, the late Stuart Marshall. Unfortunately, the resulting film, a significant disappointment, is both chaotic and confusing. The clips Weiss assembles are edited together without identifying the date or title of the films from which they are taken. This disjointed doc occasionally amuses but does not inform. Ian McKellen narrates.

A Bit of Scarlet plays the Castro Theatre, June 28, 2 p.m.

Gallows humor

Steve Moore, HIV-positive stand-up comic, wrote and stars in this autobiographical monologue that takes him from his Southern childhood to a very gay adulthood in Los Angeles. Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato produce and direct the video with style, but Moore's material is exceedingly weak. Gallows humor is always a hard sell, and Moore's attempt is both unfunny and full of self-pity. The star bears an unfortunate resemblance to a ventriloquist's dummy and his performance style approximates that of Tom Ammiano. Also on the same bill, but not available for preview: *Boy with a Bugle*, directed by Rene Broussard.

Drop Dead Gorgeous plays June 22 (9:30 p.m.) at the Roxie Cinema. ▼



Mirror, Mirror tracks the last 18 months of Consuela Cosmetica, from his fabulous cabaret act to his creation of a living will.

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Leading the way

Britain's Channel Four to receive Frameline Award

by John Blanco

When I recently mentioned to a British-born friend that our local PBS station plays several hours of queer programming throughout the month of June each year in celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride Month, she was singularly unimpressed. "Back home," she explained, "we get those kinds of shows year-round."

It's true that Brits can count on their tellies to provide them with a fairly steady stream of gay and lesbian programming, much of it coming from one source, Channel Four Television. For more than a decade, the London-based network has been funding, producing, and commissioning work geared specifically to a lesbian and gay audience previously underrepresented by the British television industry. For this reason, Channel Four will be honored with the 1997 Frameline Award for its outstanding contribution to lesbian and gay media arts.

Channel Four's first lesbian and gay series, *In the Pink*, debuted in 1986 and aired for two seasons. It was followed in 1989 by the even more successful *Out on Tuesday*, a weekly magazine-format show for queers that, during its six-year-run, showcased such influential films as Isaac Julien's *Looking for Langston*. Next came *Dyke TV*, a mix of short films and feature premieres that aired on four consecutive Saturday nights in 1995.

The network displayed a similar willingness to reach a lesbian and gay audience when it branched out into feature film production with the Channel Four Drama Department in the mid-'80s. One of its first efforts, 1986's *My Beautiful Laundrette*, proved that a small-budget, gay-themed film could turn a tidy profit.

Costing just \$850,000 to make (the film was shot on 16mm and blown up to 35mm), *My Beautiful Laundrette* became an art-house hit. It was followed by many other Channel Four successes, including *Prick Up Your Ears*, *Maurice*, *Sister My Sister*, and *Beautiful Thing*, productions that

combined quality filmmaking with stories that resonated with lesbian and gay viewers.

For this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival tribute to Channel Four, Frameline has assembled an impressive lineup of recent works from the Channel Four Network and Drama Department. The offerings—everything from a witty documentary about queer imagery in British cinema to a grueling drama about lesbian witches in the British Army—are diverse yet similar in their honest depictions of lesbian and gay life.

The one offering that seems to be getting the most attention is Nancy Meckler's *Alive & Kicking*, a smart, well-acted drama about the relationship between Tonio (Jason Fleming, seen recently in *Hollow Reed*), an HIV-positive dancer, and Jack (Anthony Sher), an HIV-negative AIDS counselor. The film's script (by Bent playwright Martin Sherman) takes the hard, unromantic stance that AIDS has brought together two men who wouldn't have become involved under normal circumstances. Tonio believes Jack is with him because he is dying, meaning that their relationship will be short and passionate. Paunchy Jack believes that the beautiful Tonio has been forced because of his health to compromise in his choice of a lover. Unsentimental yet moving, *Alive & Kicking* is the best "AIDS drama" in recent memory.

Another potent drama, *The In-*

vestigator, is the true story of Caroline Meagher, a British Army detective assigned to hunt down suspected lesbians in the military in the 1980s. The film follows Meagher (played by Helen Baxendale) as she comes to terms with her own lesbianism and finds herself a target of the hard-line, do-assemble, do-tell military detectives. *The Investigator's* script was pieced together from research, interviews, and military transcripts, which might explain why the writing is often a bit dry. Still, this is a fascinating story, filled with bizarre details of the military's investigating process.

The balance of the Channel Four films in this year's festival are documentaries, both short and feature length. A *Bill Called William*, about Britain's 1967 Sexual Offenses Act, and *Village Voices*, about Manchester's "gay village," are two shorter documentaries (both just shy of an hour) that make up one program. Another "mini-feature" documentary is the powerful look at lesbians on death row, *Perverted Justice*. The idea for this film grew out of the shocking statistic that 40 percent of the women on death row in the U.S. are lesbian, or had the implication of lesbianism used against them at their trials. Combining news and trial footage with interviews with activists, scholars, lawyers, and a female death row inmate, director Donna Clark creates a convincing argu-

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Helen Baxendale in Channel Four's *The Investigator*.

FILM FESTIVAL

Ian McKellen narrates Todd Nelson's *Surviving Friendly Fire: The Making of a Street Kids Theatre Project*.

Thespian therapy

'Surviving Friendly Fire'

by Will Shank

Growing up "straight" in small-town, white-bread Nebraska, Todd Nelson never dreamed he would be involved in a project about homeless, multi-racial, gay and lesbian youth. But, at age 35, Nelson has done just that as director and producer of *Surviving Friendly Fire*, which premieres at the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival on June 21.

Surviving Friendly Fire is a real life *A Chorus Line*. In 1992, 70 homeless youths were cast out by their families to fend for themselves on the streets of LA. The teenagers one by one found their way to a Hollywood shelter where they enrolled in a project that encouraged them to use theater as a means to understand and transform their lives. Norma Bowles, a Princeton-trained director, nurtured and molded the rag-tag crew into the first-time actors and playwrights of *Friendly Fire*, a theatrical event commissioned by the LA Festival in 1993. Its premiere is introduced in Nelson's film by theater wizard Peter Sellars, artistic director of the festival.

Surviving Friendly Fire came about as a collaboration between director Bowles and her friend Nelson, who works as a producer at Fox TV. As Nelson watched the rehearsals and performances, he observed a story that "needed to

be told, or it would be gone." Video camera in hand, he proceeded to record 50 hours of rehearsals, performances, and interviews with these young, first-time actors. In the process, many questions surfaced in addition to some startling statistics, laid out at the beginning of the film: "1,400,000 kids live on the streets in the U.S.; an estimated third of all street kids are gay; one in three runaways enters prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home; 5,000 homeless kids die on the streets each year; and the suicide rate among gay teens is double that of straight teens."

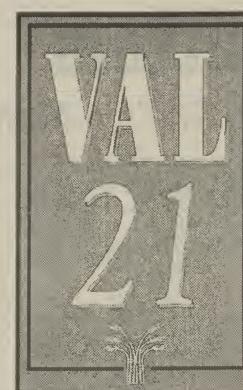
But *Surviving Friendly Fire* is more than just grim statistics. The film is also touching. In addition to the success stories of the young people at the center of the film, director Bowles, herself a lesbian, finally comes to an understanding on screen with her conservative father, who grew up "in North Carolina, literally down the street from Jesse Helms."

"I wasted so much time being in the closet," Bowles told me. "I hope that this project will receive the sort of recognition that will inspire teachers to come out and be role models to young gays and lesbians."

How will the film play in Peoria? Nelson is optimistic. "Our most enthusiastic audience so far [for advance screenings] was in Lincoln, Nebraska. People are moved by its message." *Surviving*

Friendly Fire deals in universal truths about succeeding against the odds, and about the reality that art can save lives. ▼

Surviving Friendly Fire screens Saturday, June 21 (3:30 p.m.) at the Victoria Theatre.



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Hide and Seek

◀ page 36

films that were designed to stamp out every trace of authentic personality, including but not limited to erotic proclivities. Remember those totally artificial "family" set-ups? We can laugh at them from a safe distance today, but here they're replaced in their original, life-threatening context. What could be more chilling to a sense of one's autonomy than the sound of that "kindly" male voice intoning the psychological dogma of the day, stuff like, "Mary seemed to have a real need to be stirred up about someone. It was a transition stage."

Braiding together these three discourses — what prepuberty can look like to others, how it felt on the inside, and the official version of reality — Friedrich creates an über-narrative that is so much more than the sum of its parts. Intentional gaps allow synaptic sparks to fly, forcing us to compose our own film out of the available fragments. More than providing answers, *Hide and Seek* sets up a field of inquiry within which viewers make their own connections with their own memories. ▼

Hide and Seek plays Sunday, June 28 (4 p.m.), at the Castro Theatre.

Switch-hitters

'He's a Woman, She's a Man'; 'Who's the Woman, Who's the Man?'

by Gary Morris

F art has its roots in anxiety, nerve-wracked Hong Kong should be first in the field. Since 1984, when Britain agreed to return the colony to China on July 1 of this year, Hong Kong cinema has reflected the culture's anxieties surrounding this potentially cataclysmic changeover. Most observers cite John Woo's *Hard-Boiled* and *The Killer*, veritable orgies of masculine violence and despair, as among the more



Anita Yuen in *He's A Woman, She's A Man*.

extreme responses to an uncertain tomorrow. But lurid images of male paranoia and self-destruction are only one product of a cinema that fears for its future.

Equally extreme but surely easier on the mind and eyes are the substantial number of gender-bender movies produced in Hong Kong over the last 13 years. Cross-dressing and homosexuality are manifest in just about every genre but seem to find the warmest haven in historical fantasies of Old China and more modern sex comedies with farcical overtones. Two of the best of these fall into the latter category, and they're must-see items in this year's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

As in the West, such themes often find eager audiences both gay and straight, and director Peter Chan established a highly successful series in 1996 with *He's a Woman, She's a Man*. Rose (Carina Lau) is a pop superstar in love with her wayward producer, Sam Koo (Leslie Cheung). Chi-Wing, or Wing (Anita Yuen), is a desperate female fan of both who disguises herself as a boy for an audition with Sam, who falls in love with him/her. Director Chan spins off multiple layers of drag/camp like so much chiffon as Wing's increasingly indecipherable gender confounds everyone around her. Rose tries to seduce her, then decides Wing is gay and that they can be "sisters" instead. Wing and Sam engage in an elaborate ritual of hesitation and engagement.

In some ways, *He's a Woman, She's a Man* is the story of a heterosexual man coming to terms with homosexuality. The film assigns a seasoned gay character to



Anita Yuen and Anita Mui star in *Who's The Woman, Who's The Man*, part of the tribute to Hong Kong Cinema.

help Sam along in his progress. This is "Auntie" (Eric Tsang), a mincing queen who rails against his friend's naivete and refusal to follow his impulses. Eventually Sam resolves to love Wing no matter what his/her sex: "Whether you are a boy or girl — it doesn't matter. I only know that I love you." In the midst of the sometimes chaotic comedy are surprisingly poignant scenes of Sam sitting alone at the piano, pining for something he wants but can't have: another "man," Wing.

Students of Hong Kong cinema will see a complicating dimension in the fact that actor Leslie Cheung, cast as a sexually confused man, is gay in real life. This adds an irresistible irony to many of the scenes — for example, where he's so turned on by almost kissing Wing that he leaps on Rose for a sweaty sex session; or early on when he asks Wing, a woman who's dressed as a man, whether "he" is gay. The transgressive gay male kiss is breathtakingly rendered when, after many near-misses, Sam Koo final-

ly connects with Wing. Of course, as omniscient viewers following every plot twist, we know this is a man kissing a woman, but the film generates so much nervous tension around the event that it plays equally as two men kissing.

Lesbian mirror image

In the follow-up, *Who's the Woman, Who's the Man?* (also 1996), Wing's descent into the complexities of gender takes a new turn. Through her work with Sam Koo, Wing has become a famous singer. She's still pretending to be a man for her public, but lives as a woman with Sam. But Wing continues to cause problems for Sam because of her inability to contain who she really is behind the trappings of drag. During an awards ceremony, dressed and perceived as a man, she suddenly "outs" him when she screams from the stage, "Sam — I love you!"

Meanwhile, an equally androgynous character appears, the reclusive star Fan Fan (Anita Mui). To Sam's chagrin, she re-

places him as the object of Wing's love. The popularity of both Wing and Fan Fan shows the film's amused view of the practical rewards of being free of gender restraints — Wing is feverishly worshipped as having "brought androgyny to HK pop," as the subtitles say. Her audience loves her "feminine male pop icon status." Wing, standing in for the women in the audience, explores the pleasures of male privilege when she takes the glamorous Fan-Fan on a "heterosexual" date.

Who's the Woman offers a lesbian mirror image of the previous film's transgressive male kiss. This scene is another dizzying drag/camp creation that operates on many levels. During the shooting of a remake of *Gone with the Wind*, Fan Fan, a woman, plays Rhett Butler, complete with moustache; and Wing, a woman pretending to be a man who's now dressed in female drag, portrays Scarlett. Their extended, graphic kiss is long, hot, and above all thoroughly lesbian. This time we see clearly through the layers of drag to two actresses, Anita Yuen and Anita Mui, in a passionate liplock.

Director Chan fleshes out the very gay world of these films with not only a galaxy of queer characters, but also endless subplots that play off the general sexual confusion. Two painters working on Sam's apartment are inspired to come out of their closet by what they believe is his willingness to buck social trends and live with the "man" he loves: Wing. Wing's best friend Fish (Jordan Chan), a hunky butch guy, dresses like a woman in a desperate attempt to attract Fan Fan's gorgeous dyke buddy, who merely laughs at him. When Wing asks the dyke what it's like "for a girl to like a girl," the response is typically deadpan-absurd. As rendered by the fractured subtitles: "First, they cut their hair short. Wear men's clothes. Pretend to be a man. Then, followed by hiccups!" ▼

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He's a Woman, She's a Man plays Monday, June 23 (10 p.m.), at the Roxie Cinema. *Who's the Woman, Who's the Man?* plays Tuesday, June 24 (10 p.m.) at the Roxie.

TELEVISION

Enemy territory

'In the Life' tackles the many faces of oppression

by Gary Morris

The body as battleground is the subject of the June edition of *In the Life*, TV's only national gay and lesbian newsmagazine. More specifically, it's the gay and lesbian body that's under assault from a variety of sources, from the social virus of the Christian Right to physiological attacks by AIDS and ovarian cancer.

The first segment in this episode looks at the making of two documentaries. Arthur Dong's graphic *Licensed to Kill* attempts to make sense of murderous attacks on the gay male body. The filmmaker was himself gay-

Festival when it plays at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 22 at the Victoria Theatre.)

Like Paul Monette, openly lesbian television executive Donna Isman fights a lethal disease — in this case, ovarian cancer. "A Day in the Life" shows how dealing with the disease also forced her to come out. Isman is a model of strength and stoicism, and her ability to remain grateful while being ravaged by an illness is at once unsettling and heartening. Ultimately, she finds solace in her elaborate network of friends.

Anti-lesbian wheeze

Sometimes society doesn't seem satisfied with murder and disease as counters to the Queer

bian girls going through adolescence in the '60s. Tina Difeliciano's *Two or Three Things But Nothing for Sure* completes this unholy trinity, but the real agenda behind these attempts at suppression is more expansive. After years of support, the NEA was recently "persuaded" to end its \$100,000 funding for Women Make Movies, which distributes some of these films.

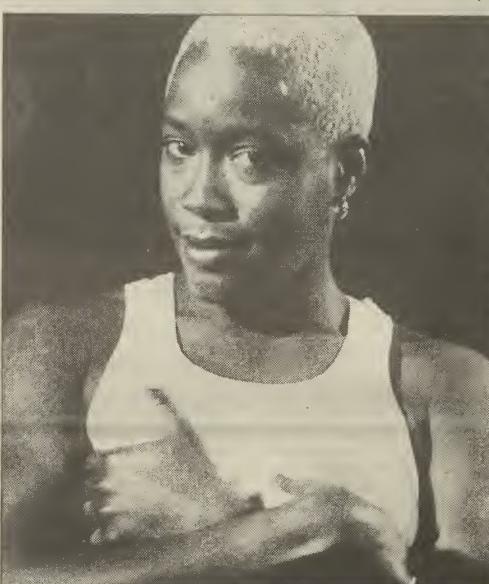
Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!* is the subject of a lengthy segment that includes interviews with the writer, director, and several of the actors. This is in some ways the weakest of the show's entries, perhaps because it reads simply as a promo piece, with the actors cheerleading in the usual tired ways about how wonderful and different their film is. One actor's comment that "it's not about being gay — it's about relationships!" seems both unnecessary and duplicitous given the film's insular, gay-ghetto mentality.

Pat Robertson, nose rings

In the Life doesn't only point out problems and document cultural expression; it also offers specific strategies for rebellion. Three video shorts remind viewers how easy it is to pick up a video camera and document what's happening in their lives and their community. Two of these videos give glimpses of rare subjects: Janet Baus' *Risk: Lesbian and AIDS* explodes the myth that lesbians can't get the disease; Ioannis Mookas' *Only Human: HIV Negative Gay Men in the AIDS Epidemic* looks at the profound ways the disease affects those who aren't afflicted with it. The third entry, Dr. Mel White's *The Rhetoric of Intolerance: An Open Video Letter to Pat Robertson*, shows White upbraiding his televangelist ex-boss for homophobia. Like the murderers in *Licensed to Kill*, Robertson can't be reasoned with, and the viewer may be tempted to suggest White stop complaining and simply go and kick the old bastard's ass. Nisha Ganatra's black-and-white short *Junky Punky Girlz*, a comic take on a mother-daughter clash over a nose ring, wraps up the episode.

This month marks the fifth anniversary of *In the Life*. The fact that it appears on nearly 100 PBS stations and airs in 19 of the top 20 national markets may seem like a miracle in these turbulent times, but it's more a testament to the sheer tenacity of gays and lesbians in the face of enduring social censure. ▼

In the Life airs Friday, June 20 at 11 p.m. on KQED-9.



Cheryl Dunye, director of *The Watermelon Woman*.

bashed and never understood why; years later he put together this composite picture of killers of gay men, based on prison interviews. The excerpt seen here give flashes of insight, but most viewers will want to see the entire film to follow Dong's lead in trying to reason out the unreasonable.

A different but equally familiar attack on the gay male body comes from the scourge of AIDS, a subject never far from Lesli Klainberg and Monte Bramer's *Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End*. Again, as with *Licensed to Kill*, tantalizing excerpts and interviews with the filmmakers make the viewer hungry for more. (The film can be seen as part of this year's Lesbian and Gay Film

Threat. In yet another wearisome reiteration of past struggles, politicians are busy crucifying lesbian auteurs for the crime of self-expression. The idea here is not merely to attack the body, which after all might leave it standing, but to suppress its existence entirely. *In the Life* examines this phenomenon by showing chilling clips of Pat Buchanan carrying on in his choir-boy whine about the terrors of Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman*. The idea that a caveman like Buchanan is being paid as an arbiter of artistic merit is bizarre enough, but he's just one part of a system of abuses. Su Friedrich is also shown being vilified as a child pornographer for her film *Hide and Seek*, about les-

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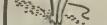
Cathy Cohen, Reena Benjamin, and Shauna Croome in *Junky Punky Girlz*.

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Larger than life

by Jerry Metzker

Musty Chiffon, queer America's psychedelic acid-queen lounge singer, comes across as one tough broad, but she has to. Her material demands no less. Once known as Dini Lamot, former lead singer of the late '70s New Wave band Human Sexual Response, Musty inhabits the groovy realm of '60s music, not the gentle, hippy-dippy stuff, mind you, but the

darker-edged world of the Rolling Stones, the Jefferson Airplane, and John Lennon. In addition to all the fab covers, there's even an original number, "I Wanna Be Jackie Onassis," written by Musty and her brother.

Beyond singing, there are also memorable extramusical activities that include Musty's sporting of form-fitting, multi-colored pant suits with enormous bell bottoms, and a fun bit where she answers audience questions (no matter how risqué). At times, the small

space at Josie's seems unable to contain the husky-voiced singer, whose personality and voice are probably too big even for a space as ample as the London Palladium. But outsized grandiloquence is just part of what makes this entertainer so unforgettable. ▼

Musty Chiffon continues through June 28 at Josie's, 3583 16th St. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information.

Fury Pi

by Jerry Metzker

The trouble with detective mysteries is that they sometimes take themselves a little too seriously. Luckily, this is not the case with *The Two-Bit Tango*, which is currently socking it to audiences at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint.

Based on Elizabeth Pincus' Lambda Award-winning novel of the same name, *The Two-Bit Tango* concerns detective Nell Fury's (Diane Wasnak) attempts to locate the missing lesbian sister of a beautiful blonde bombshell (Ruth Cox). Sounds simple, but things get complicated soon enough with the arrival on the scene of a secretive San Francisco supervisor, a murdered club bouncer, and various other shady characters.

The scenes are concise and played out as much for camp appeal as for suspense. The four performers (including Joan Mankin) chew up the scenery playing at least 20 different characters.

Among its other things, *Tango* also features a dance by the acro-



Terry Lorant

The cast of *The Two-Bit Tango*.

batic Aidan O'Shea in drag, Wasnak riffing on the baritone sax, and the sultry singing of Audrey Smith. Derek B. Sullivan has assembled some fetching costumes for the cast, and Mikiko Uesugi's set looks terrific under Heather Basarab's flattering lighting. The songs are by Mark Kennedy. Run-

ning just under 90 minutes, the show is an abbreviated mystery, but greatly entertaining nonetheless. ▼

The Two-Bit Tango continues at Josie's through June 29. Call 861-7933 for tickets and

Gay U.S.A.

◀ Arts cover

during the '60s.

The film will no doubt remind viewers of how far we've come, at least in some ways. One of the thorny issues of the '70s was the feminist rejection of drag queens as promoting misogynist imagery, a feeling expressed by several of the women in *Gay U.S.A.* This notion is forcefully rejected by the film's drag queens, who don't see their activities and images as in-

herently oppositional. It's surely a sign of progress that this particular debate is no longer dividing the community.

In other areas, the assumption that the future could only yield further gains is not borne out by history. When a woman from Kansas says, "I lost several jobs because I was gay," we can't help recalling that today, 20 long years later, 41 states still allow employers to fire people because of their sexual orientation.

On a more upbeat note, *Gay U.S.A.* brims over with florid cos-

tumes, clever dials, and good humor. A wildly dressed queen insists, "Today, I'm more than gay, I'm jubilant!" A dyke subtly summarizes the way community survives through wit and intelligence in a poem addressed to a straight person who wants her to go back in the closet: "Sure I'll go, if you go too, but I'm polite, so after you." ▼

Gay U.S.A. screens Thursday, June 26 (2 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre.

Channel Four

◀ page 38

ment that societal prejudice against lesbianism is as much a factor in sending some women to death row as is the nature of their crimes.

By comparison to *Perverted Justice*, some of the other Channel Four documentaries seem downright fluffy. *A Star is Porn* is a cheeky documentary about the British porn industry. *Glasgow Kiss* is a low-key "docu-soap" that chronicles a year in the lives of six queer Scots. There are several interesting stories among these lesbian and gay Glaswegians — one young woman's decision to come out to her father, and a lesbian mother's custody battle are just a couple of examples — but we don't get to see them played out. All the real drama occurs

off-camera, and what we're left with are some tedious footage of a Mr. Gay U.K. contest and a lot of warm and fuzzy moments from Glasgow's Gay Pride Day Parade.

Two better offerings are movie-themed documentaries. *Celluloid Icons* is a collection of four shorts, the stand-out being Prathiba Parmar's "Jodie," a wet-lipped examination of the idolatry that actress Jodie Foster inspires in the lesbian population. My favorite of all the Channel Four films, *A Bit of Scarlet*, is a feature-length documentary that looks at how lesbians and gays have been (mis)represented throughout the history of British cinema. In a clever departure from the traditional clips-and-talking heads format of most documentaries about movies, director/editor Andrea Weiss groups the clips thematically and

then weaves them together so that they form their own, often comic, narrative. The film is a deconstructionist's delight — it's playful, illuminating, and subversive. ▼

Alive & Kicking plays the Castro Theatre June 23 (9:30 p.m.); **The Investigator** plays The Victoria Theatre June 23 (9:30 p.m.); **A Bill Called William** and **Village Voices** play the Roxie Cinema June 22 (12:30 p.m.); **Perverted Justice** plays the Victoria Theatre June 28 (11 a.m.); **A Star is Porn** plays the Roxie on June 28 (11:30 p.m.); **Glasgow Kiss** screens June 27 (5 p.m.) at the Roxie; **Celluloid Icons** plays the Victoria Theatre June 23 (5 p.m.); **A Bit of Scarlet** screens June 28 (2 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre.

THEATRE

Pride takes a bow

by Chad Jones

Amidst the flurry of activity this Gay Pride month, don't forget that there is life beyond float-building and the queer film festival. Theaters around town will be brimming over with lavender life.

In what could turn out to be an annual holiday favorite, the indefatigable revue *Dirty Little Showtunes* is back for six weeks of lusty, tuneful, and ultra queer revelry. Relocated to the Theatre Rhinoceros mainstage, *Showtunes* boasts several new numbers but features the same intrepid cast. **Tom Orr**, the man responsible for taking show tunes by composers like **Sondheim** and **Bernstein** and giving them a homo twist, will once again warp musical theater history before your very eyes. To dirty your tunes, call the Rhino box office at 861-5079, but celebs will be warned: there will be no show on Sunday, June 29, the day of the parade.

The New Conservatory Theatre's Pride Season is in full swing this month with not one but two productions celebrating homo pride. The boys-on-display play is the festive Fire Island beach house romp *End of the World Party*, which runs through July 19. One of the center's smaller stages is playing host to one of the most hilariously twisted cabaret acts to saunter down the pike. If you haven't seen the **Kinsey Sicks**, a group of manic drag queens who can't stop singing,

Half the cast of *Dirty Little Showtunes!*

Billy Daniels

tive brand of growling cabaret. You can catch Ms. Chiffon's show on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays through

Saturdays at 10 p.m. In July, Musty's schedule changes a bit when she becomes the Josie's headliner. Her shows in July will run Wednesday through Sunday at 8 p.m.

For those who just can't bear to see the weekend end, Josie's is of-

fering a fabulous Sunday night treat: **Billy de Herrera**, drag queen extraordinaire, in *Vanity Case*. De Herrera's new drag character is one **Vanity Case**, a glamorous star who regales her friends and co-workers with tales of Hol-

Great American Songbook will never be the same again. Call 552-1110 for reservations.

Finally, if a man in a dress qualifies as queer theater, then **Charles Blackburn's Conversations With Aunt Martha** definitely qualifies. A solo show that was awarded a "best of" honor at last year's San Francisco Fringe Festival, *Aunt Martha* is Blackburn's ode to 72-year-old **Martha**, a native of Louisiana who has lived in San Francisco for 50 years. Blackburn's ability to transform himself into the zesty, if slightly crusty, Martha is astonishing. *Conversations With Aunt Martha* runs Fridays and

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Curtain Up!



Francisco Morris

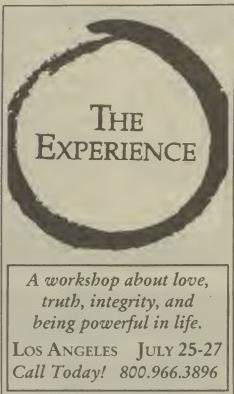
The Kinsey Sicks, "America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet."

you owe it to yourself to check out their latest endeavor, *Everything But the Kitsch 'n' Synch*, which runs through July 12. For tickets to *Party* or for the Sicks, call the NCT box office at 861-8972.

Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, easily the most charming boîte this side of the Castro, is hosting three theatrical events this month. The sole production representing lesbians is *The Two-Bit Tango*, a noir-ish San Francisco detective story — a dyke dick story you might say. But you'd better hurry: *Two-Bit*, which runs Wednesday through Sunday at 8 p.m., closes on June 29. Also at Josie's is erstwhile pop-rock one-hit wonder **Musty Chiffon** and her distinc-

lywood glory days. The show is actually a clever way for de Herrera, a talented clothing designer, to parade his couture creations before the public. For tickets, call 861-7933.

Regular "Curtain Up!" readers will recall a mention in the last column of a cabaret show celebrating the queer lyrics of **Cole Porter** and **Lorenz Hart** called *I'd Like to Hide It*. **Greg MacKellan**, creator and star of the work, informs us that the show has been such a hit it will be extended through June 22, and possibly longer. *I'd Like to Hide It* runs Friday and Saturday nights at Star Classics on Hayes Street. This is a must-see for cabaret fans. The



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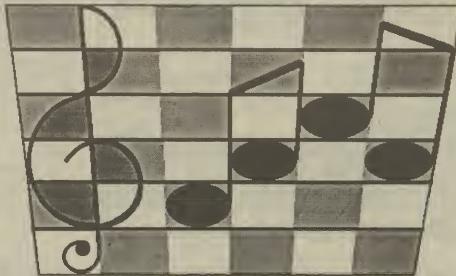


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Richard Dworkin

◀ Arts cover

secret how that might have inspired a gay audience.

"I don't want to sound corny, but I've always been sensitive to the way music can serve a social or community function, and also how music can be an expression of a community. Buena Vista was expressing those first heady feelings of liberation after Stonewall, that sense that progress had been made and more progress was possible. It's a feeling that comes across so well in another film of the period in which we appear briefly, Arthur Bressan's *Gay U.S.A.*"

Bressan's film documents the 1977 gay parades in several U.S. cities, including San Francisco's — the event was one of Buena Vista's first big gigs. Twenty years later, Dworkin is returning to the Bay Area — he's lived in Manhattan since the early 1980s — with not one but three New York bands, each of whose music speaks to the concerns of late-'90s gay men.

Dworkin got the idea to whip up what he's calling the Spunkadelic tour after a night of queer bands at CB Gallery, the annex to CBGB's in Manhattan, attracted one of the largest crowds in the club's history.

"The Josie's shows will be set up for the gay MTV generation, short but sweet. Each band plays a half-hour set. I'll play drums for each group and George Rush will play bass, but the music of each is completely different in mood and style. It's a great sampler that's light years beyond 'I thought I was the only one who was gay, I met someone, and now I'm happy and proud to be gay.'

Critics gush

The David Downing Trio, a swing band, will open each show. It might seem like an insult, but one can easily imagine Downing, a crooner who plays keyboards and saxophone, facilitating megacuddling by gay couples on an RSVP cruise. His songs are that smooth, though the lyrics in several undercut a sweet-sounding melody.

The debonair Downing inspires peculiarly gushy praise from New York reviewers. Rex Reed of the *New York Observer* declared him "multiseasoned" — though he didn't name the spices — and a critic at *Theater Week* enthused, "Imagine a thirsty plant getting a cool, thorough misting."

Downing has misted folks of all orientations at recent East Coast gigs. His band was well-received at Philadelphia's gay-pride



Jason Vass

David Downing, Chris Cochrane, and David Clement.

festivities and at Sullivan's, the hip new bar in Manhattan's Ed Sullivan Theater, where straight couples danced, some unwittingly no doubt, to gay-tinged songs like "Oh Boy" and "Handsome."

Following Downing's trio at Josie's will be David Clement and the Orgy of Self-Loathing. With a name like that, it's not surprising that Clement's post-folk songs have a brooding quality, but a ray

'80s groups, among them R.E.M., have cited as a major influence.

"We play in some good clubs and occasionally pop up on national TV — Conan O'Brien's show and others like that."

Later in the year, Dworkin hopes to begin his next producing project, an album celebrating the late Steven Grossman, whom he describes as the first out gay artist signed to a major record label

"Buena Vista was expressing those first heady feelings of liberation after Stonewall, that sense that progress had been made and more progress was possible. It's a feeling that comes across so well in another film of the period in which we appear briefly, Arthur Bressan's *Gay U.S.A.*"

of hope shines through most of them — think of a Morrissey whose thrice-weekly therapy sessions are just beginning to pay off. Clement won the 1996 Gay and Lesbian Music Award for Debut Artist of the Year for his album *Be Like Me*.

The harder-edge Chris Cochrane's *Suck Pretty* closes the show. When asked how he would describe Cochrane's music, Dworkin shrugs his shoulders.

"Beats me. Let's see ... it's post-queercore music about being a post-AIDS gay man who's into S&M."

There's a mournful quality to Cochrane's singing and superb guitar playing; he's like Diana Galas, down an octave and with a backbeat, Dworkin and I finally decide.

Shortly after the Josie's shows, Dworkin will hit the road on one of his bread-and-butter gigs, drumming for Alex Chilton, who wrote and sang the 1966 Boxtops hit "The Letter" and fronted the '70s band Big Star, which several

(Mercury in 1974).

In the meantime, the drummer-producer pronounces himself "exceedingly happy" to be playing in San Francisco for queerfolk (and some old friends from his hippie days) again. One suspects that the rush won't be quite as intense as in the Buena Vista days, but his goals are still the same.

"I'm still looking through music to capture a sense of community. But there's a difference from the Buena Vista years, though. Whether it's one of Dave Downing's sultry ballads or one of Chris Cochrane's laments, the lyrics speak directly to us. There's no need for interpretation or appropriation." ▼

The David Downing Trio, David Clement and the Orgy of Self-Loathing, and Chris Cochrane's *Suck Pretty* will play at Josie's July 1-5 and July 8-12 at 10 p.m. Call 861-7933 for more information.

INTERVIEW

Mann talk

William Mann on 'The Men From the Boys'

by Michael Bride

It's a typical gathering of gay men for Sunday brunch. We're in high spirits as we drink mimosas and compare notes from the night before, and, as ever, bemoan our lack of boyfriends.

Except for Peter, who met a new man last month and is now the envy of us all. "My God," I say to the assembled clutch of thirtysomething men, "are we becoming the stereotypical gay queens or what?"

Mark, a wise friend, smiles and says, "As long as gay men breathe, they will talk about men. Which ones they want, which ones they've had, which ones they can't get, the proverbial white knight who never seems to ride in on his damn horse."

I'm still thinking about his words the next day when I interview William Mann about his acclaimed debut novel, *The Men From the Boys*, a lighthearted, romantic romp that creatively explores gay men's relationships with one another as friends, lovers, tricks, and longtime lovers. The book is as revelatory as it is entertaining and thought-provoking.

The main story in *The Men From the Boys* concerns Jeff O'Brien, a man in his 30s who divides his time between Boston and Provincetown. He's involved in a long-term, non-monogamous relationship with his lover Lloyd. Their carefully balanced world is threatened by three things: advancing age; the imminent AIDS death of their friend and mentor, Javitz; and the arrival of Eduardo, a 22-year-old houseboy with whom Jeff unexpectedly falls in love.

Mann brings insightful political and social skills to bear on his theme. My conversation with him proved enlightening and provocative.

B.A.R.: Why haven't long-term gay relationships been explored before?

William Mann: I think we've been in crisis management for the last 15 years. How could we consider long-term relationships when we barely had time to have short-term relationships? We've been caretaking, grieving, acting up. The literature that has explored this issue has been about narratives of loss — lovers who die. But what about lovers who don't die? I think looking at long-term relationships is the next horizon for gay men.

How traditional will those relationships be? In your book, Jeff and Lloyd have a non-monogamous relationship. What effect does that have on long-term relationships?

I'm not sure how much tradition

mous relationship with his lover Lloyd. Their carefully balanced world is threatened by three things: advancing age; the imminent AIDS death of their friend and mentor, Javitz; and the arrival of Eduardo, a 22-year-old houseboy with whom Jeff unexpectedly falls in love.

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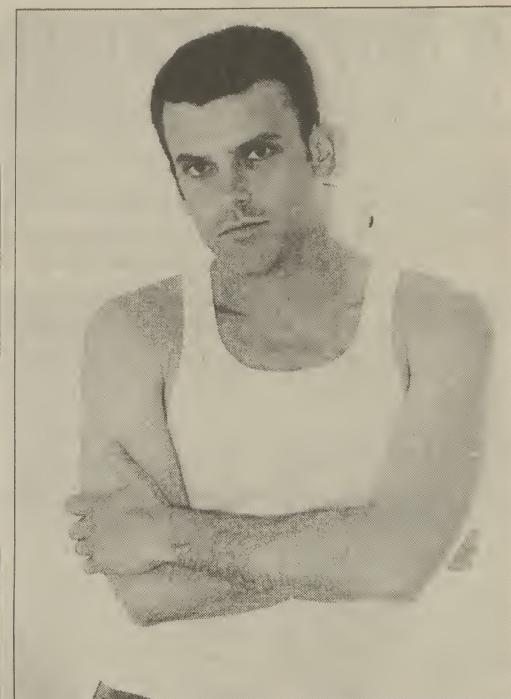
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Jeff wrestles with that in your book. Do you think many gay men are struggling with this sense of traditional versus nontraditional?

I do. Do we want our parents' lives? Those of us of the ACT UP generation definitely did not. But now we're starting to think pieces of those lives might not be so bad. It may be just a natural process of getting older.

Certainly some people must have



Tim Huber

Author William Mann

told you that Jeff's obsession with getting older is a bit much.

It is a bit much. Jeff is completely self-absorbed at the start of the novel. But he changes. I think people will see that he's just scared. This is a hard world we live in. I wouldn't trade being gay for anything, but let's face it — we

don't make it easy on ourselves. We live in a culture that actively devalues the aging process — and gay men take it to the extreme, with all the pumping up and cosmetic alterations.

The book raises the issue of "body fascism," which Michelangelo page 52 ►

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MUSIC

A world of music

by Philip Campbell

If everyone is separated from everyone else by only six people, as a character in John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* muses, then the classical music scene is proposing even closer proximity. San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and superstar baritone Thomas Hampson share relationships with composer Gustav Mahler, American poet Walt Whitman, and each other on three new compact disc releases.



Das Klagende Lied — Michael Tilson Thomas, San Francisco Symphony & Chorus (RCA Victor Red Seal)

Michael Tilson Thomas maintains a profile about as discreet as Mayor Brown's. But he always delivers the goods, and his latest recording is no exception.

Edited from five performances given at Davies Symphony Hall last year, this disc of an early Mahler work is more satisfying

than the actual concerts. There's a spark of energy that carries the listener from beginning to end, even through the less inspired pages.

Once again, Tilson Thomas proves himself the most persuasive interpreter of this quixotic composer since Leonard Bernstein. His efforts here are ably served by excellent soloists, tenor Thomas Moser, baritone Sergei Leiferkus, soprano Marina Shaguchi, and mezzo-soprano Michelle DeYoung (recently featured in the Mahler Third at Davies Hall).

The recording is realistic, but the wide dynamic range is sometimes unflattering to the SF Symphony Chorus and the intermittently thin-sounding strings. Some may raise their eyebrows, too, at the deification of conductor over composer on the recording's sleeve cover, booklet, and CD. Oh well, Kenneth Branagh regularly takes billing over Shakespeare, and Tilson Thomas is at least as brilliant with Mahler.

Das Lied von der Erde — Peter Seiffert, Thomas Hampson and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/Simon Rattle (EMI Classics)

It's too bad that Thomas Hampson and Michael Tilson Thomas weren't able to record this mature Mahler masterpiece together after they performed the piece together here in March. Of course, Peter Seiffert is a far better tenor than the hapless Jon Freder-



ic West, who sang here opposite Hampson.

Simon Rattle has his credentials in order, too, and his orchestra responds with intensity and skill. Mahler designed this work for tenor and contralto or baritone, and Mr. Hampson shows the same lyrical sensitivity with Rattle that he displayed so winningly with Tilson Thomas. Even if you remain unconvinced of the suitability of a male voice for the part, Hampson's closing "Der Abschied" (The Farewell) is every bit as moving here as it was in person.

To the Soul — Thomas Hampson sings the Poetry of Walt Whitman (EMI Classics)

We should thank Thomas Hampson for revitalizing the concept of intelligently programmed song recitals. In what is clearly a labor of love, Hampson teams with pianist Craig Rutzenberg for a powerful hour of songs based on the poetry of America's "Bard of Democracy," Walt Whitman.

The record boasts an awesome roster of composers, from Ned Rorem and Frank Bridge to Kurt Weill to Ralph Vaughn Williams (Whitman seems to have inspired as many writers as Shakespeare). Rutzenberg's accompaniment is appropriately strong and straightforward, and Hampson is great throughout.

There is much to like here, including a recent composition, dedicated to Mr. Hampson, by Michael Tilson Thomas — "We Two Boys Together Clinging." It works well in context and receives a fine performance.

I was particularly impressed with several contributions from Ned Rorem and by Leonard Bernstein's achingly poignant "To



"What You Said," taken from his original orchestral setting of *Songfest*. *To the Soul* is both an indispensable addition to any collection of vocal artists and a fascinating interpretation of great poetry. ▼

Miscellany

by Deborah Peifer

Margaret Gillon founded Bluestocking Books with *Lesbians in Print*, her hugely detailed bibliography of lesbian literature. Gillon has since published her press' first novel, *Bloodsong*, and has asked me to let readers know that she is soliciting manuscripts. "I want to publish everything, especially some good non-fiction on untouched topics," she explains. "I'd like to have a press that is doing significant long-term work as well as fun short-term work." Sounds just like that novel you have hidden in your sock drawer, eh? For more information, check out her Internet site at (<http://home.earthlink.net/~griffgill/index.html>). You can also fax her at (714) 835-5496; e-mail her at griffgill@earthlink.net; or write to Bluestocking Books, P.O. Box 50998, Irvine, CA 92619-0998.

Breakfast with Isabella

Is there a lesbian alive who did not watch the execrable NBC mini-series, *The Odyssey*? Of course we watched it, and not because we wanted to see a classic butchered. We watched it because

Isabella Rossellini was in it, perfectly cast as Athene. Well, Ms. Rossellini, the daughter of Ingrid Bergman and Roberto Rossellini, will be at Book Passage in Corte Madera on June 26 at 9 a.m. For a mere \$35 you get a copy of her new book, *Some of Me*, breakfast, tickets to the Lark Theatre, and, most importantly, a chance to bask in the presence of one of the most beautiful women in the world. Rossellini's appearance is a benefit for the Rafael Theatre Project of Northern California, so you can rest easy knowing you're doing a little good for the world while soaking in Isabella's glamour.

The book, by the way, is a delight. Rossellini has a robust sense of humor about her life and fame, and her stories of life and family are both touching and witty. Of course, thanks to the gorgeous photos you may have to read the book wearing a bib, but it's worth the effort. Call Book Passage at 927-0960 for information. Tickets are still available, but hurry, they're bound to go fast. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries, or information of a literary nature, contact dpeifer@delphi.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Rene Castro

A healthy smattering of photographer Rene Castro's color photographs of Gay Freedom Parades past are on display at the Lawrence Hultberg Fine Art Gallery through July 13. Castro, a Chilean-born photographer who came to the U.S. in the '70s, has created a timeless series of vivid images that capture the spirit, integrity, beauty, and power of San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade. Castro's work has been published in many magazines and newspapers around the world, including the SF Examiner, Image magazine, The Bay Guardian, The Village Voice, El Teclate, Macropolis magazine of Mexico, and many others. Also up at Hultberg Gallery are works on paper by Daphne Scholinski. The gallery is at 544 Hayes St. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Call 861-8251 for information. ▼

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BOOKS



Limp dick

by Deborah Peifer

Let's Face the Music and Die by Sandra Scoppettone; Ballantine, \$5.99

It occurs to me that had I discovered *Let's Face the Music and Die* in an airport book shop 15 years ago, I would have been thrilled to find a mystery that looked just like all the others, but had lots of lesbians, and best of all, a dyke dick as the main character. Time has passed, however, and with the extraordinarily well-written lesbian detective fiction now available, Sandra Scoppettone's latest Lauren Laurano mystery is definitely a case of way too little, way too late.

Lauren is at the home of a friend, waiting for the cops to arrive, owing to the presence of one very murdered body. Elissa's

erness and intriguing plot lines. Her latest reads like it was assembled from a list of handy mystery novel plots for the aspiring writer. The only saving grace is that for \$5.99, you won't feel as ripped off as you would have had you paid the hard-cover price for this mediocre work. ▼

Laugh riot

by Deborah Peifer

Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear by Lesléa Newman; Alyson, \$10.95

Lesléa Newman writes poetry, novels, short stories and essays with superb skill. She also edits with a real eye for talent and a genuine sense of what works. To that list we must now add humorist. Her newest book, *Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear*, made me laugh out loud so often that I seriously annoyed my cat. Newman's collection of essays celebrates the joys of femme-ininity and the delights of lesbians with very good humor and laughs galore.

I've never been a fan of the whole butch-femme thing. It always seemed to be more about rules and cutting off choices than anything else. Newman makes the whole proposition sound like fun, like a game in which the rules can change whenever you choose, and that what is really important is how much the participants enjoy playing.

Finding the hidden lesbians is a parlor game at which Newman clearly excels. "Of course, the lesbian [TV] shows are our fa-

Most impressive about Newman's latest collection of stories is that there isn't a lemon in the bunch. Each piece is wildly funny, even on several rereadings.

beloved Aunt Ruth has been slaughtered, and because she inherits Ruth's fortune, Elissa is the prime suspect as soon as she reports the crime. But weird provisions in Ruth's will point the finger of suspicion in another direction, at least as far as Lauren is concerned. The cops are sure the case is already solved, though, so it's up to Lauren to save her friend.

But murder is not all that's going on in this overwrought novel. Lauren's lover of 14 years has a serious case of emotional distance going on, compounded by her physical absence from the scene. When Lauren makes an on-line friend, the question is not whether she'll stray from her monogamous relationship, but when. Oh yeah, and the psychopath who raped Lauren and left her for dead when she was 17 is out of prison and stalking her.

Too much stuff, with gory detail substituting for depth, makes *Let's Face the Music and Die* a barely OK train station novel, one that you wouldn't miss if you left it on the train. That's too bad, because Scoppettone's first two Laurano mysteries had wit and clever-

ness. You know, the reruns that feature couples like Lucy and Ethel, Mary and Rhoda, Laverne and Shirley, Wilma and Betty. Hey, if those gals aren't dykes, I'll eat my subscription to *People*. I mean, they dream together, they scheme together, they laugh together, they cry together, they break up, they process, they make up. And they never have sex. Sounds like half the lesbian couples I know."

Her piece on the invasion of the P.U.'s (parental units, not the politically unbelievable) will strike a chord for all who have lived through such an event. After reciting a list of unidentifiable names, Newman's mother comments: "Oh, and the Greenbergs. You remember them, don't you? The ones on our block with the grass that was always so brown. You remember their grass - it looked like hay." This is too much. "Ma, I don't remember the Greenbergs' grass." "Sure you do," my mother insists. "They live three houses down from us in that split-level. You know, they got aluminum siding last year, I told you." "So," I pretend interest, "what about the Greenbergs?" "They got

Out of the closet and nothing to wear

BY LESLÉA NEWMAN

sod." "They got sod?" "Yeah, they got sod, can you believe it? Their lawn is gorgeous now! What can I possibly say to this: 'The grass is always Greengberg?'

Newman examines the terrors of PMS, which, she explains, stands for "Please Menstruate Soon." Her adventure in gender-bending, when she is mistaken for a drag queen, is both funny and insightful. Most impressive about this collection is that there are no lemons in the bunch. Each piece is wildly funny even on several rereadings. I know this because I spent a lot of time on the phone telling my friends, "I just need to read you this page." Trust me. *Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear* is to laugh and laugh some more. ▼

Lesléa Newman will be at Mama Bear's in Oakland on Sunday, June 22, at 3 p.m. Call 510/428-9684 for info. She'll be at A Different Light (431-0891) on Monday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m.

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Big brother looms

AIDS policy debates reveal deep divisions

by Wayne Hoffman

AIDS policy debates are traditionally divisive, and this month's battles are no exception.

In the *Atlantic*'s June cover story, science journalist Chandler Burr proposes rethinking the fight against AIDS. Exceptionalists, who see AIDS as demanding special consideration, have dictated policy over the objections of traditionalists, who argue for conventional public health approaches, he asserts. But Burr says it's time to start treating AIDS like any other disease, endorsing measures long rejected by AIDS organizations as draconian, coercive, and repressive: routine testing, contact tracing, partner notification, and centralized name reporting of infected citizens. Coincidentally, in July's *POZ*, Burr interviews Rep. Tom Coburn (R-OK), whose pending HIV Prevention Act would codify many of Burr's suggestions.

"The *Atlantic* piece is not just about the Coburn bill," says Burr, who supports the Act as one battle in a larger paradigmatic war. "It's about the effectiveness of traditional disease containment methods. These measures are necessary and effective for controlling the further spread of AIDS."

Many activists and public health advocates are wary of Burr's proposals, however, and the *Atlantic* is conducting an online roundtable on its website (www.theatlantic.com) to gauge reader feedback. There's plenty of suspicion about Coburn, too—he's the Congressman who denounced *Schindler's List* as too sexually titillating for prime time—based on his politics and long-standing opposition to condom distribution and needle exchange programs.

"I have no doubt that Coburn is interested in public health," de-

fends Burr. "He is a Christian Coalition congressman, he does believe homosexuality is a sin. But his bias does not prevent him from understanding the best ways to preserve public health."

For too long, Burr avers, civil rights and privacy concerns have taken precedence over solid public health measures. But with half of HIV-infected Americans still unaware of their sero-status, this politically deferent approach isn't working. More people need to

some violations, a degree of that would have been worth it to save tens of thousands of people."

But Burr and Coburn don't go beyond notification of sero-status. What will people do once they find out they are positive? What about treatment, counseling, insurance? Traditionalists haven't come forward with funding, health care reform, or improved treatment, and this makes many AIDS advocates particularly wary of Big Brother's intrusive manda-

"There should be no political considerations when it comes to public health," Stachelberg says. "Coburn's bill is not about accurate public health strategies that are proven and accepted. It's just politics dividing the public."

know their status, and earlier, so they can receive treatment. Bowing to political concerns doesn't make sense in 1997, he says; it may not have even been the right course at the epidemic's onset.

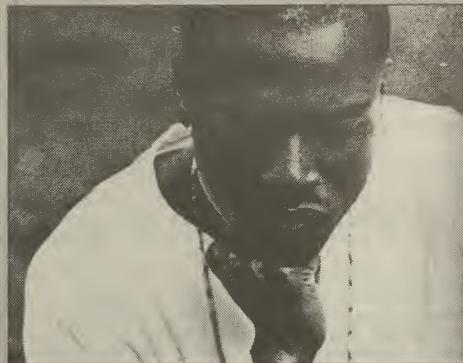
"There are many public health people who believe that tens of thousands of dead people would be alive and healthy if we had instituted these measures in 1983," says Burr. "I'm cognizant of the fact that there would have been violations of confidentiality, civil rights violations, personal pain, more suicide. I don't know where the balance is. If there had been

tory contact tracing and partner notification.

"What would be the point of the proposals, if not to treat people?" asks Carole Vance, associate research scientist at Columbia University School of Public Health. "It suggests that their motive is a rather cynical one. If they argued that they'd provide free care and protease inhibitors to everybody, you'd have to engage them in a different way. But clearly that's not their intent."

Vance warns that Burr's ideas are counterproductive. Politics page 53 ►

EVENT

Forward-looking

Julian C.R. Okwu

On Tuesday, June 24 (7:30 p.m.), A Different Light Bookstore will host a booksigning and discussion with Darien Scott, Lowell Gibbs, and Derek Lassiter, three gay black men featured in Julian C.R. Okwu's *Face Forward: Young African American Men In a Critical Age*. Okwu's book, new from Chronicle Books, explores the ways in which young African-American men—both straight and gay—are leading exemplary lives, defying statistics, and bashing stereotypes.

Darien Scott (pictured) is the author of *Traitor to the Race*, published in 1995. Scott relates in *Face Forward* that as a "middle-class, gay novelist with a white partner" he feels at odds with the culture's stereotypical image of what a black man is supposed to be. Lowell Gibbs has experienced oppression twice over, as a black man and as a homosexual. His experience has bolstered his social awareness: when he's not at work in the corporate world of investment banking, Gibbs serves on the board of governors to the Human Rights Campaign Fund and is active in the gay community. Derek Lassiter lived in five different families by the time he was 18. He has not seen his mother since 1976, when he was sent to live with his grandmother. His sense of isolation living with white foster families and going mostly to white schools was increased by a growing awareness of his homosexuality. For information about the booksigning, call 431-0891. ▼

BOOKS

Spunk rock

by Roberto Friedman

Autopornography: A Memoir of Life in the Lust Lane by Scott O'Hara; Harrington Park Press, \$14.95

Scott "Spunk" O'Hara wants to be loved for more than his famous appendage, once touted "the biggest dick in San Francisco." Unusually for a porn star, he also has a first-rate mind, a well-developed philosophy of life, and a seductive way with words. His *Autopornography: A Memoir of Life in the Lust Lane*, just published by Harrington Park Press, is more than a pornboy's memoir. It's a new take on the autobiography genre, containing extended ruminations on the pleasures of foreskin, a treatise on the drawbacks of committed relationships, and a run-down of all the videos in which O'Hara has appeared. There's even some introspective verse between chapters.

O'Hara is not only sex-positive and HIV+, he is defiantly life-positive as well, showing off a resolutely up-beat attitude about experience which strikes us as quintessentially Left Coast (he was born and raised in Southern Oregon.) His is a San Francisco sort of story. Not only does he keep returning here at key points in his life, but the themes of his life — sexual and spiritual growth, freedom from attachment — are just the sort of bohemian concerns that have always typified the Barbary Coast.

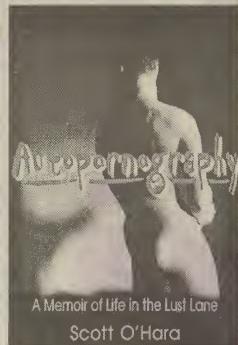
Even ye olde Bay Area Reporter figures prominently in this boy's own story. Responding to an ad in the B.A.R. for jackoff dancers at Savages, a porn theater, launched O'Hara on his famous career; and a later "Greasy Jockstrap Contest" at the Powerhouse finds this familiar scene: "Mr. Marcus, the perpetual emcee at these events, poured motor oil all over our jockstraps ..." *Ça plus change, ça plus reste.*

Former publisher of the late lamented journal *Steam*, O'Hara is a persuasive advocate of sex *al fresco*: "Sex belongs in the outdoors, I firmly believe. It is a natural function, as natural as sunlight and grass, and restricting it to the bedroom is insane." We learn that this exhibitionist extraordinaire developed a taste for orgasm in the great outdoors from boyhood sessions milking the snake outside in the wilds of Southern Oregon. It's an aesthetic which has paid off plenty in his travels and back home in the Bay Area.

A chronology lists such seminal events as his first ejaculation, first time fisted, first paid performance at Savages ("tits pierced afterward, in the basement"), the publications of his stories and book, *Do-It-Yourself Piston Polishing (for Non-Mechanics)*, and an art exhibition, *Scott O'Hara: Nudes, Portraits, and Hard Dick Images*, at Mark I. Chester's gallery in 1994. We get a full rundown of his porn career, as well as a good idea of his upbringing. This boy does not believe in keeping secrets.

He doesn't really explain being independently wealthy, except for an odd passage about a crate of gold and silver coins which is hard to believe. But he does very well at establishing his own personal myth, required of all SF celebrities.

In the end, if Scott's hot dish on fellow porn stars and sexual adventures makes for an enjoyable read, he is most inspiring in



his approach to living with AIDS. If first in denial about his symptoms (passing off a KS lesion as a motorcycle exhaust pipe burn), O'Hara eventually owned up to his serostatus in a big way, even tattooing HIV+ on his bicep. His account of surviving lymphoma is brave and honest. More than a juicy piece of meat, Scott O'Hara is a gifted survivor with a tale to tell. ▼

FILM

Keeping a breast

by Erin Blackwell

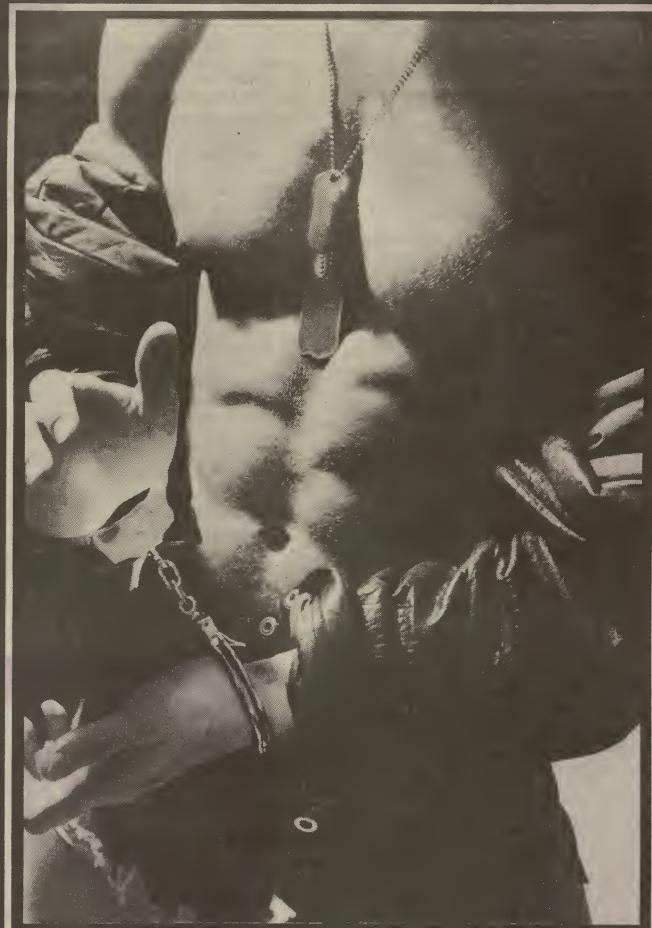
Very independent filmmaker owes some kind of debt to Yvonne Rainer, the San Francisco native-turned New Yorker who started producing her own features way back in 1972 as an extension of her work in dance. Rainer's latest, *MURDER and murder*, takes two autobiographical snippets — post-mid-life coming out and breast cancer — and expands them into a two-hour extravaganza.

Recently seen as part of a Rainer retrospective, *MURDER and murder* combines fictional narrative with in-your-face performance art. Tender and quirky relationship issues share the screen with dense textual citations of French theorists and a barrage of demoralizing statistics about cancer survival rates. As the film's most compelling element, Rainer herself appears as a kind of cabaret emcee wearing a cutaway tuxedo front that displays her ex-breast. ▼

MURDER and Murder plays Saturday, June 28 (11:30 a.m.) at the Castro Theatre.



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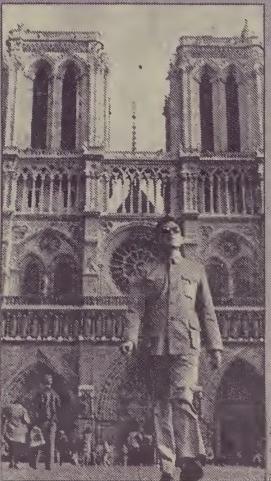
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



"Paris, France" by Tseng Kwong Chi

Photo credit

Fri
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Conversations with Aunt Martha

Charles Blackburn's play returns. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 6/28. \$9. Exit Stage Left Theatre, 156 Eddy. 566-9763.

Gay Latino Pageant

Miss & Mr. Gay Latino 1997 pageant, benefits Stop AIDS Project, Proyecto ContraSida, Llego Ca. Clinic, 9:30pm. Esta Noche, 3079 16th St. 861-5757.

Gay Lyricists of the 30s

Cabaret evening of Cole Porter & Lorenz Hart songs performed by 42nd St. Moon. \$15. 6:30pm. Star Classics Recital Hall, 425 Hayes. 552-1110.

Hanging from the Highwire

Femme art show, artists include Phyllis Christopher, Maria Luisa Jimenez, Carol Queen. Thurs.-Sun. thru 6/21. Build, 483 Guerrero. 863-3041.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together screen Jeffrey. \$2. 7pm. 95 Duboce. 675-0201.

Mama Cass' Summer of Love-In

Katie Guthorn is Mama Cass headlining the Monterey Pop Fest. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 6/21. \$15. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 861-6906.

Muddy Little River

Harriet Dodge performs multimedia Poems on Being Earnest with original live music, slides, 16mm film. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 6/21. \$10. Intersection for the Arts, 455 Valencia. 821-6276.

Mysteria

"The Secret Rites of Burning Man," interactive theatre, multimedia arts event. Fri. & Sat. thru 6/28 at 8pm. \$10. SOMAR Cult. Ctr., 934 Brannan. 985-7471.

The Mystery of Irma Vep

Aurora Theatre Co. & Magic Theatre Co. present Charles Shaw Robinson and Danny Scheie in Charles Ludlam's spoof of gothic horror. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 6/29 (7/8-27 at the Magic, call for times). \$20-22. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.



Cabaret Castro presents Michael Michelangelo, the performer formerly known as Dolphin, in *Queen of the Girls* at MCC. See Saturday.

Gallery hop

Lace up your gallerygoing shoes and join *Calendare* for a quick jaunt through some intriguing displays of contemporary art now up in the city's museums and galleries.

Artist as tourist: "The Expediatory Works" by Tseng Kwong Chi is a series of large (36 x 36 inches) photograph prints of the artist posed in front of some of the major cultural monuments of the world. The sight of Tseng, front and center, in his starched Mao jacket and mysterioso shades, walking stiffly into the camera while squeezing the bulb connected to his shutter, entirely upstages whatever cultural wonder he purports to be capturing: Notre Dame, Mt. Rushmore, Disneyland. These works have the humor, the artlessness, and the signifiers redolent of the cultural moment. There's also *Baochi Zhang's* show of pointillist portraiture, through July 5 at Haines Gallery, 49 Geary (397-8114).

Across the street at Gallery Paule Anglim, a small room of Bay Area artist *Melissa Pokorny's* works shows the sculptor, who works with silicone rubber and polyurethane foam, to be up to her usual textural and formal tricks, with some interesting new developments. *Gate House: Fenestrated* (1997) takes the form of a miniature golf course attraction, augmented by Pokorny's rubbervities, seemingly in the throes of spontaneous generation. Through July 5 at Gallery Paule Anglim, 14 Geary (433-2710).

At the newly re-opened Belcher Studios Gallery, *Six* artists show new work, including *Barbara Traub* and *S. Brett Kaufman*, through July 6 at 69 Belcher (255-8900).

But the "trrilly big shoo" of the moment for local artists is at Center for the Arts (701 Mission), where *Bay Area Now*, featuring works by D-L Alvarez, Aziz + Cucher, Cliff Hengst, Scott Hewicker, Caitlin Mitchell-Dayton, Barry McGee, J. John Priola, Brett Reichman, Michelle Rollman and 28 other fab Bay Area artists, is only one component of a summer-long arts fest that includes film and video, performing arts, and discussion series. Watch this space (or call 978-ARTS) for further details. ▼

Nina's Trashy Auction

Nina Hagen auctions collages to benefit research hospital in India. \$10. 9pm. Minna St. Gallery, 111 Minna. 777-4975.

One Scary Woman

Zachary Barton in torch-song cabaret. Mon.-Sat. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. at 10pm thru 6/21. \$10-18. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Pandemonium

Antenna Theatre's celebration of spring, a walk-through outdoor performance. Thurs.-Sun. at 8:30pm thru 6/22. \$12-15. Headlands Center for the Arts, 944 Fort Barry, Marin. 332-4862.

Solo in Soma

Queer monologists perform. Tonight: Margot Lynn, Robert Arriola, Maureen Browne. Thurs.-Sat. thru 6/28. \$10-12. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Thicket

Gabriel Todd, Samantha Beers and company in work-in-progress improvisational theatre, voice, and dance. \$5-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

The Two-Bit Tango

Dyke detective comedy and musical extravaganza. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru June. \$12-15. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Walking on the Highwire

Interactive performance piece on female gender identity. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 6/22. \$10-15. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Latino/a GLBT Art

7th Performing Arts Show of Latino/a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Artists.

Sat. & Sun. at 8pm. \$15. Mission Cult. Ctr., 2868 Mission.

William J. Mann

Reads from his novel *The Men From the Boys*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Xavier Castellanos

Exhibition of artworks, with Satterthwaite, Warno, and Frederick, reception today, 4pm. Thu 7/12. 303 2nd St. 552-2592.

Sat
21

Body Positive

Party for HIV+ gay men, free. 7:30-11pm. Zeck's, 1319 California. Call for info. 241-1579.

Boots 'n' Boxers Bash

SD Dyke Daddy Thumper & SF Leather Daddy Loren present beer/soda bust, \$7 benefits AIDS Emergency Fund. 8-11pm. SF Eagle, 12th & Harrison.

Bridget Swartz

Stand-up comedy, Saturdays thru June. \$7. 8pm. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Cabaret Castro

Michael Michelangelo in *Queen of the Girls*. \$5-10. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka.

Kuntry Kunts

Alternative music night. \$5. 10pm-2am. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

Latino/a GLBT Art

7th Performing Arts Show of Latino/a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Artists.

Sat. & Sun. at 8pm. \$15. Mission Cult. Ctr., 2868 Mission.

sion. 550-1065.

Musty Chiffon

Singer/songwriter, psychedelic cabaret star in revue. Tues.-Sat. at 10pm thru June. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sun
22

A La Brava

Group reading incl. Al Lujan, Lito Sandoval, Karla Rosales, more, free. 1pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Celebrity Sundays

Star illusionist turns cohosted by Wenda Watch and Babs. 7pm. Harvey's, 500 Castro.

Chanticleer

Male vocal ensemble presents Mexican Baroque: *Matins for Our Lady of Guadalupe*. \$19-26. 7pm. Mission Dolores Basilica, 3321 16th St. 392-4400.

Fabulous Fakes

Celebrity female impersonators revue. Sun. at 8&10pm thru 7/6. \$14.95, 2 drink min'. New Coconut Grove, 1415 Van Ness.

GAWK

Workshops for videomakers w/equip., rock musicians. Call for info & location. 731-2424.

Godless Sunday Morning

Gay & Lesbian Atheists and Humanists gather for coffee & conversation. 10am. Balcony, Josie's, 3583 16th St. 824-5445.

Prayers for Bobby

Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus concert. \$20-40 benefits Billy DeFrantz Les&Gay Comm. Ctr., PFLAG. 4pm. Ctr. for Perf. Arts, San Jose. (408) 275-6344.

Same Sex Salsa

Beginning salsa lesson, 6:30pm; cumbia, 7:15pm; dancing for lesbians & gay men, 8pm. \$8, 10w/lesson. Metronome, 300 DeHaro. 252-9000.

Tarot Tea Party

Thalassa's summer solstice lecture on tarot, reading workshop. \$25. Noon. Gatehouse, Fort Mason. 753-5041.

Vanity Case

Billy De Herrera in musical costumed extravaganza, with special guests. Sundays at 10pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Mon

Art on the Front Lines

"Of Healing," artwork by people with life-threatening illness or disability. Mon.-Fri. thru 6/30. 4th fl., City Hall, Alice at Embarcadero, Oakland. (800) 678-5440.

Raised by Wolves:

"Photographs and Documents of Runaways by Jim Goldberg" exhibit, thru 7/21. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Skinn

Hardcore live acts, tribal sex beats by Jism Jeff & Cougar, no drag. \$5. 9pm-2am. Loading Dock, 1525 Mission.

Sylvia

A canine comedy by A.R. Gurney. Tues.-Sun. thru 8/31. call for times. \$30-37. Tonight at 8pm. Marines Mem'l Theatre, 609 Sutter. 771-6900.

Wed
25

Bret Johnson

Reads from *Coming Out Every Day*, 6pm. Borders, 400 Post. 399-1633.

Hurrell's Hollywood Portraits

Exhibition of prints from golden age of the Silver



Quincy Long's *The Joy of Going Somewhere Definite* (l to r: James Remar, Nick Scoggin, Sean San Jose Blackman, Bob Ernst) opens at the Magic Theatre. See Tuesday.

Generation X geriatrics

by Robert Julian

The Men From the Boys by William J. Mann; Dutton, \$22.95

When Jeff, the 32-year-old protagonist of William J. Mann's debut novel, proclaims that "it is the last summer in which I am to be young," the reader is put on notice. Heterosexual standards that apply to aging will be suspended for the duration of *The Men From the Boys* so the reader may inhabit the half-life of the urban gay male — a life in which one reaches his prime at age 25, lapses into middle age before 35, and acquires senior citizen status at 40. It is an interesting turn of events to hear Jeff, a Gen X, ACT UP veteran,

lament the end of his youth and envy the taut flesh of his 22-year-old boyfriend.

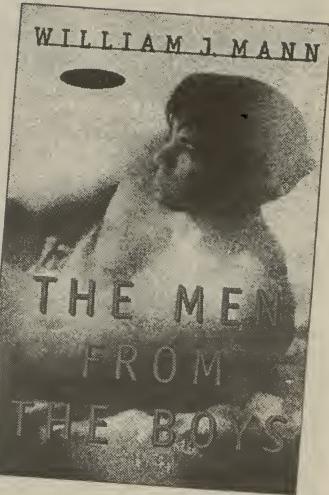
The Men From the Boys concerns a series of overlapping relationships that take place within a one-year period. At the core of the novel is the open *ménage-a-trois* between Jeff, his lover Lloyd, and Jeff's former lover and soulmate, Javit, a 47-year-old AIDS patient. The male dissemblers who threaten to break up this convenient arrangement are Drake, a wealthy, thirtysomething WASP who attaches himself to Lloyd, and the lower-class Eduardo, the aforementioned 22-year-old who captivates Jeff.

Set in Massachusetts, Mann's novel unfolds against the highly charged queer backdrop of a Provincetown summer, juxtapos-

ed with a fall and winter in Boston. The author elects to jump back and forth in time and setting, allowing both period and place to alternate from one chapter to the next. This structure does little to hamper — or help — the narrative, but it allows for some interesting point/counterpoint parallels.

What distinguishes this debut work is the author's ability not only to replicate the casual sex between homosexual men, but also to articulate the generational differences between his main characters. At this point in time, the experiences, understanding, and desires of gay men who are 22, 32 or 47 are vastly different. Mann is one of the first writers to delineate these different contemporary life experiences in parallel structure

within the framework of one novel, and his situations and personalities resonate with truth. To his credit, the inanity, courage, narcissism, and selflessness of the gay male experience are exposed, warts and all, for the reader's enlightenment. And although none of the characters emerges as a wholly likable person or appealing role model, there is enough food for thought here to keep gay men of all ages turning pages for the next hit of self-recognition. ▼



Big Brother

◀ page 48

haven't prevented these measures from being put into place, modern public health has. "Repression and coercion can accomplish something," Vance admits, "but usually it's only a small fraction of what you need to achieve in reducing disease. Therefore, for reasons of practicality, and quite apart from reasons of morality or ethics or privacy, most public health approaches nowadays have adopted a more cooperative, non-authoritarian framework."

Taking context and politics into consideration is part of public health, says Vance, not a diversion. Besides, Burr's top-down approach is not "traditional," she says, and it won't work.

"This is not a customary practice," Vance argues. "It's lunatic because routine testing wastes a huge amount of money and doesn't target resources, it relies on the notion that if they extract information from people in a coercive way, they'll get good information, and then when they identify infected people they won't do any-

thing for them."

In fact, she argues, rather than pulling large numbers of newly-discovered infected people into treatment, routine testing and name reporting would drive those at risk underground, away from treatment. Not only would the proposed measures not help, they might actually do more harm than good.

Burr argues that in other cases, like tuberculosis or typhoid, such approaches have been enormously productive; it's just politics that prevents health advocates from treating the disease equitably. Gay and AIDS organizations have stifled public health debates with their politically correct exceptionalist dogma, he says. Others are dubious.

The notion that exceptionalists have dictated AIDS policy to date simply isn't credible when examining past public health legislation; the main demands, Burr says, are characteristic of the exceptionalists (condom distribution, explicit sex education, needle exchange), are still scarcely implemented, vastly under-funded, and violently contested at every level of government. In fact, oth-

ers might argue that the traditionalists have wielded too much power to date, and that it's high time the scales shifted further away from such approaches. Countries like Australia have had tremendous success fighting AIDS by avoiding authoritarian measures and more fully embracing (and funding) community-driven "exceptionalist" efforts.

"The gay community and AIDS community, joined by the public health community, have worked very hard to get out clear messages about this disease," says Winnie Stachelberg, who lobbies on national AIDS policy as legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign. "The thing that continues to hold us back is not a civil liberties argument, but a problem being open and honest about issues that people don't want to hear about, like how exactly HIV is transmitted, and that gay and lesbian people are out

there."

The Human Rights Campaign opposes the Coburn bill. Stachelberg agrees that politics have unduly influenced public health, but not in the way Burr suggests.

"There should be no political considerations when it comes to public health," she says. "Unfortunately, Coburn's bill is not about accurate public health strategies that are proven and accepted. It's a perfect example of politics trying to drive public health strategies, and that's the core of the problem."

Divisiveness runs deep. There are even divisions over how the debate has been divided. Are there really even two competing philosophies, as Burr claims, the traditionalists and exceptionalists? "Disease intervention is always tailored to the time, the place, and our understanding of the web of causation," says Vance. There is no monolithic "traditional" model

from which to stray, she asserts, since treating every disease as exceptional is the tradition. "The notion that there's a single, generic health approach that's trotted out to any health problem is just inaccurate."

Even while Stachelberg spars with Burr and Coburn — all three participate in the on-line discussion — she too is uncomfortable with how the "Privacy vs. Public Health" forum divides them. Everyone wants to improve public health, she says; it's just a question of how best to achieve it.

"I'm perturbed that this is how the discussion has been framed," she says. "I'm not talking about privacy issues, I'm talking about effective public health strategies. It has nothing to do with pragmatism or principle. Once you have someone who's ill, all those neat distinctions and dichotomies fall away. It's all about public health. Period." ▼

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LEATHER BUDDIES

special PRIDE edition*

Wednesday, June 25
Door 9 - 1, call 863-HEAD



A record 12 dudes competed for the Mr. December 1998 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, June 12, at the Eagle.

Mister Marcus

More summer madness

by Mister Marcus

Last week I listed several leather events coming your way here and elsewhere through the end of July. The schedule continues with more fun and games you might want to attend while you're on vacation.

Check out the uniform ball on Friday, August 8, and LeatherBall III at the Opera House on Saturday, August 9, in Toronto. Contact Leather Ball III, P.O. Box 500-35, Toronto, ONT, Canada, M4Y 2HO.

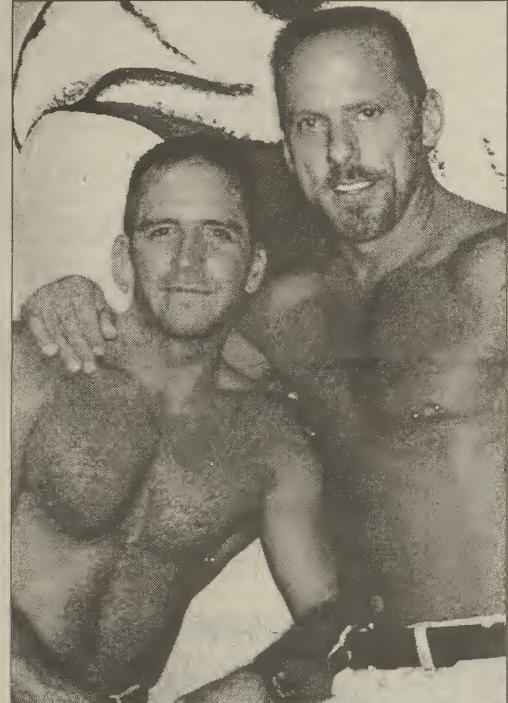
The next weekend, August 15-17, our own Constantines MC stages its 30th weekend run, "Gold Diggers '97," at Lake Vera in the Gold Country. The run's limited to 90 guests, with a \$99 price tag before 1 July; after that, it's \$120 not later than August 10. Call 738-9465 or 863-3744 for information.

On August 22-25, Mr. Leather Europe will be chosen in Manchester, England. For all events and three nights accommodations, it's \$220 (not including airfare). Contact MSC (ECMC), P.O. Box 104, Manchester, M60 1GY. Their e-mail address is mscmc@dircon.co.uk. In Columbus, Ohio, Boy Toy Productions stages the Great Lakes Drummer contest on Saturday, August 23, at Club Tabu (great venue!). Contact Boy Toy at P.O. Box 06419, Columbus, Ohio 43206. On Friday, August 22, Philip Turner's annual "Leather Extravaganza" takes place. No details yet but you will hear it all soon!

September will be busy all over! Chicago Hellfire stages two "Inferno" weekends, September 4-7 and 7-10, with several price options. This is usually "by invite only," so regulars know how to contact the group.

In Amsterdam, the MSC Amsterdam celebrates its 27th anniversary with "Leather Hunt" September 12-14. Noted artist The Hun has created a stunning poster for this one. Contact MSC Amsterdam, P.O. Box 3540, NL-1001 AH, Amsterdam, Holland.

It's the biggest leather gathering in the world in San Francisco in September. Leather Pride week kicks off on Sunday, September 21, with the Leather Pride Walk from Daddy's to the SF-Eagle. Every night thereafter, there's something going on, including



Mr. December 1998 Glennon Sutter (right) with runner-up Randy Moore.

Mister Marcus

the Fetish & Fantasy Extravaganza at Club Townsend on Friday, September 26, and (we hope!) the International Mr. Drummer contest on Saturday, September 27. Leather Pride Week culminates with the 14th Annual Folsom Street Fair on Sunday, September 28.

In October, the National Leather Association is having its Leatherfest XII in Portland October 9-13. And on Sunday, October 12, the Bad Boy Club of Montreal stages its "Black & Blue '97" at the Montreal Convention Center (with 100,000 sq. ft. for dancing). On Friday, it's Tom's (of Finland, that is!) Leather Ball and a Military Ball on Saturday. Charge to your credit card by calling 514/875-7026 or write to: BBCM Foundation, P.O. 1253, Station B, Montreal, Canada H3B 3K9.

At the ICF Awards for 1996, the Golden Gate Guards won best weekend run and best food on a run. During the weekend of October 10-12 up at Camp Mendo-

cino, they will stage their "Monopoly" weekend run with a \$110 fee before October 5 (\$135 thereafter). All the usual amenities for this 11th edition weekend! For more info call 929-1324 or 421-1790. E-mail to: ggg@blackiris.com or snail mail to P.O. Box 192101, SF, CA 94119.

The weekend of November 7-9, Mr. Palm Springs Leather Mark McKenzie will pass his sash to a successor at "Sweatin' Bullets '97." Call 760/770-7397 for more info (sponsored by the Palm Springs Leather Order of the Desert). They'll be picking Mr. Florida Leather and Leather Boy in Orlando this month, but no date as of yet. This contest is not to be confused with Mr. Leather Florida, which is held in Fort Lauderdale. Yes, shit happens – even in Florida's leather communities!

At this point in time, the December schedule is as barren as a desert, but you know it will be a full slate!

It wasn't exactly boring around here last week. On Thursday, June 12, the Mr. December '98 spot on

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 19

Constantines MC's beer bust at Daddy's for \$7 from 2000 to 2300 to benefit the GodFather Service Fund and Rita Rockett brunches.

Weekend, June 20-22

Valley Knights MC travels to French Meadows for its 21st anniversary weekend run (\$65). Call Mike Walker at 916/455-6540.

Friday, June 20

The Exiles meet tonight at the Women's Building with an NAL Play Workshop, 1930-2230. Call 487-5170 for details.

Alameda County Drummer Boy contest at the Turf Club in Hayward at 2000.

Saturday, June 21

Mr. Alameda County Drummer contest at the Turf Club at 2100 with a \$6 beer bust (or \$5 with club overlay).

Dyke Daddy Thumper and Leather Daddy Loren host a Boots 'n' Boxers beer bust at the Eagle for \$7 at 2000.

Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth Downey's sendoff party at Daddy's to raise travel fund money, 1500-1800. She'll compete at IMs.L next month.

Sunday, June 22

Folsom Street East street fair in New York on 14th Street between 9th Avenue and Washington Street, 1400-1900.

"Pride in History" beer bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8 to benefit the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society.

Bear Pride Party at the Lone Star, 1600-2000, for \$6 with raffles and hot dogs.

Also the Los Angeles Gay Freedom Day Parade in West Hollywood.

Wednesday, June 25

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. Boots mandatory, no cologne! You will be sniffed. Call 979-0242.

Thursday, June 26

Twelve winners will compete for the cover of the 1998 Bare Chest Calendar tonight at 2200 at the Eagle. Be there!

the BCC was chosen from a whopping field of 12 contestants! Judges Doug Johnson, Sharon Kleinman (Mr./Ms. Santa Clara County Leather) and Greg Pennington chose 6', 182-lb. hunk Glennon Sutter for the honor. The runner-up was Randy Moore.

All 12 winners will compete for the coveted calendar cover spot on Thursday, June 26, not on June 19, as was erroneously reported here last week. *Mea culpa!*

Last Sunday was Father's Day, and they had a brunch at Daddy's at 1100, followed by a beer bust at the SF-Eagle. Big crowds at both events. Irwin Kane emceed the beer bust, and Thom Rodgers did his usual great job auctioning off art work and leather boys for the AEF and the GSF.

James Loughren's stunning design for the Leather Pride Float copped top prize! The awards ceremony took place at Daddy's last Friday, June 13. James chose the Daddy's vest for his prize and paid almost \$400 for the Eagle vest watch! ▼



Tommy Thomas (left) and Bobby Wong celebrating their club's 20th anniversary at the SF-Eagle May 17.

Curtain Up!

◀ page 43

Saturdays at the Exit Theatre through June 28. Call 566-9763 for reservations.

Cabaret men abound

The normally woman-dominated world of cabaret is being shaken up this month at the York Hotel's Plush Room. New Yorker **Phillip Officer** is dazzling audiences with his marvelously eclectic show *You Keep Coming Back Like a Song*. Officer's goal with this musical tour de force is to sing a song from every decade of this century. He nearly succeeds, but more than that, he's combining chestnuts like "Surrey With the Fringe on Top" and "Blue Skies" with modern compositions from the likes of **Joni Mitchell** ("Night In the City") and **Styx** ("Come Sail Away"). He even celebrates the best of the new songwriters with songs like **Julie Gold's** "Heaven" and **Craig Carnelia's** wonderfully dithy "Old Movies." Officer's expert accompaniment comes from the gifted **John Boswell**, who recently headlined the Plush



On his own: Craig Jessup

Room with **Lee Lessack** and **Brian Lane Green**. Perhaps it's time for Boswell's own star turn.

After Officer leaves San Francisco on June 21, a local cabaret favorite will make his solo debut on June 25. **Craig Jessup**, known to many local music fans as part of the trio **Ruth Hastings and Company**, will put his 20-plus years of cabaret experience to work for himself. Jessup's show, which will be accompanied by **Christopher Winslow** and directed by Broadway veteran **Matthew Inge**, will feature musical theater from **Rodgers and Hart** and the **Gershwin**s along with some gems by **Sir Noël Coward**.

The men may own the cabaret in June, but July will be a different story when singing legend-in-the-making **Amanda McBroom** reclaims the Plush Room July 8 through 20. Best known as the composer of "The Rose," McBroom is a singer-songwriter of singular talent. Her compositions "Ship In a Bottle" and "Errol Flynn" are well on their way to becoming standards in their own right. For reservations for any of the above-mentioned Plush Room acts, call 885-2800. ▼

E-mail *Curtain Up!* at crtnup@aol.com with any theater or cabaret news.

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PARTING GLANCES

Sunday May 11th

We sat at adjacent tables eating lunch at La Mediterranean. I was reading *Rebecca*. You were about to travel to Paris and Amsterdam. Care to meet? ☎ 6501.

Red Blazer Sat Attnn Castro
You: passenger, blk, strikingly hot. you were leaving. Me: wth guy with shorts & head rag. Been noticing each other lately. Get hard thinking about you! Please call. ☎ 6502.

SF Muny Sun 5/25 10:15 PM
You: BM, mustache, got on at Castro. Me: WM, beard, bomber jacket, got off at Church St. We looked; we smiled. Wanna meet? ☎ 6503.

Causing A Stir At Baker Beach
Sat., 5/24, pecs, piercing, and black lab, wow! Your greeting and easy grin answered my smile. Scaling the hill, hoping for more, imagined you saw me looking forlorn as your Rodeo pulled away. But did you? ☎ 6601.

SafewayChurch/Market 5/27 7PM
You: baseball cap, yellow checked shirt, unbuttoned over jeans. Me: taller, blond, gray polo, black jeans/knapsack. You, 3 smiles and beautiful; me, too shy to tell you! ☎ 6602.

Desperately Seeking Nancy
You and Tony met Jim and I. We were going to have steaks. We returned you were gone. Both of us disappointed I would like to see you again. Please call Roger. ☎ 6603.

Frank Daddy From "My Place"
Memorial weekend, this boy chewed your tits, held your balls, sucked your cock, gave you my card. My privilege to serve. Please call. ☎ 6604.

Floorcraft Garden May 28
You were coming I was leaving with a friend, we said Hi, eyes met. You very handsome (khaki pants, blue polo). Me: gray T and shorts. Call & talk. ☎ 6605.

Guerneville—Sun. Afternoon 6/6
You: white, wearing plaid shorts, day pack, crossing river rd. at Armstrong woods rd. Me: black guy in white Dodge truck turning onto river rd. I would love to meet you. ☎ 6606.

Daly City BART Train 6/1 7PM
handsome, balding, goateed guy with yellow walkman. I'm the brown haired guy in shorts with a red day pack you sat next to. What an incredible sensation. We must meet. ☎ 6607.

Mike Met @ Nob Hill Cinema 5/28
Loved kissing with you. You had cough and had to get water. I had to go. Would love to do more kissing. Rod. ☎ 6608.

Cafe Flore Mon. 6/2 2:30 PM
You: Asian, glasses. Me: white, blue/grey cap with "A". We exchanged smiles, but you were with friend. Let's talk. ☎ 6609.

US Air Fit 45 6/197 8W1 2 FFO
We smiled a lot. Please call. ☎ 6610.

June 1. @ Market St. Safeway
You: faded red T, jeans, short hair. Me: just moved, buying lots. You asked if it was for a couple months. Would like to hook up. ☎ 6611.

Laurie Village Fri. May 30
We noticed each other in the grocery store then again as you left parking lot. You: Jeep. Me: Jetta. Care to meet for coffee. ☎ 6612.

After The Sky Concert Fireworks
I waved from inside the F train to you across the street, you acknowledged with a peace sign, let's meet. Please call. ☎ 6701.

Divisidero Bus 6/5 7 PM
You: tall, dark, handsome, sexy legs with tennis racket. Got on Calif. St. Me: brn/blue, boyish. Call if interested. ☎ 6702.

Friday June 6 At Sha Arzahav
Mark, we spoke briefly after services. You were in a rush. Your Dad was visiting. Would like to get to know you better. Please call me. ☎ 6703.

Eros 6/7 12 PM
You: AM with glasses. Me: 5'10", WM, gold-wire rim glasses, blond. You entering shower, me leaving, we looked at each other and you smiled. Would like to meet. ☎ 6704.

BB In Army T-Shirt, 6 Jun., Eagle U: sandy haired BB in Levis & chaps. Me: African dude in fatigues & boots. We: checking out Bulls vs. Jazz. I want to eat your butt, Sir! ☎ 6705.

24hr Fitness June 2nd 4 PM
You: very cute guy with spiky brown hair, glasses? Me: blonde in white T-shirt with green gym bag. We smiled on the stairs. Want to really meet?

6/8 Castro & Market
Approx. 11:30 PM. You: tall, handsome, black T-shirt & jeans. Me: short dark hair, glasses & goatee. You smiled & said hi, I was waiting for train. Please call. ☎ 6607.

Gorgeous Blond Man W/Ponytail 6/5, 9:15 AM. You: Castro Muñi to Van Ness. Glasses, T-shirt, under open black shirt. I stood other side of doors: dark hair, black top, walkman. Have I found my dream man? ☎ 6507.

Sincere-Honest-Lovable & Cute GWM, early 40's, good-looking, easygoing: 6' tall, dk blnd, blue eyes; seeking guy under 36. GWM, clean-cut, humorous, communicative, handsomely open to a relationship. Blend talents for mutual good. ☎ 6507.

Here I Am Just For You!
Professional type good-looking GWM, 40's, seeks same, Height/weight proportioned. Any age. HIV-. Let us make it for friendship now. Get to know each other through companionship. Be serious, give friendship a real try. ☎ 6504.

Got A Rod! Catch A Pisces Bottom, HIV+, HM, 27, 5'5", 170#, fun, sincere, cute, pierced, tattooed, seeks masculine top w/HM, 25-35, for cuddling, kissing, movies and more. ☎ 6505.

Intensive Cardiac Therapy
GAM, professional, inculcated with good looks and contagious smile needs TLC. Prescriptions for treatment to include a sincere man who is well-grounded, open-minded and fun. Report symptoms of heart palpitations STAT. Further intensive care may be needed. ☎ 6506.

Expert Cockslucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topman, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 6508.

Eat Baby Dad Seeks Mate
GWM, 51, bearded, 5'9", 165#, German, blond, big thick swartz, seeks solumate bottom into bare back riding, HIV+, hairy ++. ☎ 6614.

Seeking Attractive Asian
I'm good-looking WM, 41yrs, HIV-, 5'6", 140#, enjoys golf, travel, bowling and quiet times. Seeks Asian male, 18-37, weight in proportion for friendship and possible LTR. ☎ 6509.

Is Yours The "Prick Perfect"?
Lucky you! But for me, any dick will do that shoots a real mouthful to swallow. So I've become a world class cocksucker, enjoy the difference! Sooner is better. ☎ 6510.

Sincere-Honest-Lovable & Cute GWM, early 40's, good-looking, easygoing: 6' tall, dk blnd, blue eyes; seeking guy under 36. GWM, clean-cut, humorous, communicative, handsomely open to a relationship. Blend talents for mutual good. ☎ 6507.

Hot Man Seeks Mate Into JO
Attractive, adventurous, GWM, 41, 5'8", 142#, slim, muscular body, buzz cut, short beard, hung 8.2", buzz balls, NS, HIV+, and healthy. Your into JO, mostly 50+, in shape, interested in relationship. Let's connect. ☎ 6511.

Handsome Dad Type
Straight looking 50, 5'10", 190#, healthy HIV ISO sidekick over 35s. Be masculine & mostly bottom for uncouth fun. Many interests. Equal opportunity emp. ☎ 6512.

Handsome Top
Classic good looks, fit, blond/blue, 41, HIV+, successful, confident, dynamic personality, athletic, passionate. Looking for similar (bottom) 32-40, attractive, masculine, in good shape. ☎ 6513.

Asian/Latin Boyfriend Wanted
GAM, professional, inculcated with good looks and contagious smile needs TLC. Prescriptions for treatment to include a sincere man who is well-grounded, open-minded and fun. Report symptoms of heart palpitations STAT. Further intensive care may be needed. ☎ 6506.

Seeking Cute Asian Or Latino
GWM, 39, 5'10", 165#, br/b, masculine, handsome, seeks cute, professional 25+ for monogamy relationship/friendship. I'm adventurous, humorous, unpretentious. SF/Oakland. Into old sci-fi, travel, outdoors. ☎ 6715.

I'm Boyfriend Material
SGWM, 46, 5'9", 155#, German-Irish, gr eyes, bald buzz, goatee, non-mainstream guy, fun, spirited, NS/ND. Enjoy nature, drives on weekends, playful persons 30-40's. ☎ 6613.

Better Health Thru Cocksucking
Your loads are nature's best protein, maximized by my expert cocksucking. Swallowing them achieves superior nourishment for me via superior pleasure for you! I suck you off for my health! ☎ 6615.

Why I'm Your Best Cockslucker
1. Don't care if dicks are small. 2. Do care that loads are large. 3. My superior techniques enhance loads. 4. Your most elegant personal proteins actually fuel my better cocksucking from within. ☎ 6616.

Chunky Daddy Seeks Chasers
GWM, 66, 5'8", 190#, brn hair & eyes. Seeks young slim Asians or Latin tops, 18-28. Love to suck. ☎ 6617.

Occupation: Cockslucker
Not your most exclusive US. census category. But I get to swallow your load, fresh/hot/direct from factory (beats caviar). And you get maybe your best blow job yet! ☎ 6618.

To Douglas From Japanese Man
I have miscopied your tel# 558-? Please call again, I'd like very much to meet you. ☎ 6619.

Would Love To Share My Flat
In Noe Valley wimy all "Natural" man, Possibly European. Me: 44, 49er & country music fan. Do you love gardens? I go to the gym. ☎ 6620.

The Boy Next Door
Just moved into town. GWM, 34, cute, slim, healthy HIV+, bottom. Airline employee, seeks top, life long soul mate to travel life together. Fun, easy going, gentle spirit need apply. ☎ 6621.

Summer Fun 4 GAM?
GWM, 40's, seek GAM, 30's+ for playful summer companionship (LTR). I'm 6'2", 190, and prefer trim educated Asian with sense of humor & style. Dining, music, theater or?? Call me! ☎ 6622.

Mirror Has Two Faces
SL Transsexual 30, HIV-, 5'5", 160#, attractive, very feminine ISO attractive masc males, who are very fit & prof. & willing to except pre-opt lifestyle. No femmes. ☎ 6623.

Handsome Hunky GAM
Seeks similar for friendship. Me: 33, 5'9", 173#, gym-toned. You: 30-40, hairy-muscular, easy-going, casual. ☎ 6624.

Looking In East Bay
SL, 30, 5'10", 175#, bottom, drk hair & eyes, masc, good-looking, nice body. ISO HIV-, masc men, 25-40, top, good-looking with fit nice body for friendship. Poss LTR. ☎ 6625.

Senior To Senior
SWM, 68, retired, 5'10", 200#, NS, light drinker in search of senior for friendship and LTR. Medium to heavier build OK. ☎ 6626.

59 GWM ISO Shy Sweet Manby
30's to 40's, for steady flame, must be natural, cuddly, kisser, romantic, free thinker, slight build, long hair plus. I am bright, intense, affectionate, sex numero's legs, exquisite touch. ☎ 6627.

Handy Man Seeks Top
36 year old, sex, hairy Latino bottom with hairy ass seeks dominant top with hot tongue for sex and more. ☎ 6628.

Quality Sperm & Piss Drinker
Wants to swallow all ya got—hot/fresh/direct from factories via your well—sucked dick: entire current stock, sperm & piss! (Then replenish wiheyours & beer?) ☎ 6709.

Romantic
Passionate, down to earth, GWM, 53, 5'10", 167#, br/b, seeks fun living, down to earth/athletic GAM for friend and?? ☎ 6710.

Tired Of The Same Old Lines?
Want to meet someone who is a real person? Well, then call this GWM, mid 30's, 5'8", 137#, bl/bl, who is looking to meet other GM's 30-40. ☎ 6711.

Nice One
Tall, East bay WM, wavy cut, 41, NS, HIV-, employed and available seeks similar masculine guy for dates, serious fooling around. Younger, slender/average smooth bod perfect, but who knows. ☎ 6712.

Masculine Latino Needs Lovin'
Me: 33, 6'1", 185#, good looking & fit, goatee, HIV-, unaffected, enjoys working out, bike riding, cuddling. You: (28-36), W/L, in-shape, down to earth. Call dude. ☎ 6713.

Fun With A Good-looking Guy
Affectionate GWM, 39, 6'2", 165#, gym toned, HIV-, seeks friend for casual relationship and great sex at your place. You are 30-40, at least 5'10", athletic, want fun without commitments. ☎ 6714.

Heart To Heart
WM seeks black and/or Latino, 40-50's, for companionship and sex who is friendly, fun, has integrity and enjoys top and bottom. Me: tall, fit, HIV+, offering the same. ☎ 6716.

Attractive Latino
Good-looking Latino, 31, 5'7", 150#, HIV-, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, likes running, hiking, movies, looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more between 25-38yo. Let's talk, call me. ☎ 6717.

ISO Stocky Husky Man
Handsome GM, beard, 28, 5'7", 160#, olive complexion, bl;br, ISO partner prefers, 30-45, beard or...? Serious reply only. ☎ 6718.

Cuts Lonely Young African AM
26, 5'6", 160, bottom, seeks HIV-, good-looking top guys, 24-34, white and Latinos for friendship and possibly more that enjoy beach walks, conversation, romantic dinners, body massages. Be honest & intelligent. ☎ 6719.

One Special Guy
Sought by nice looking young 54, GWM, HIV-, NS, 5'8", 162#. Educated, personable, romantic & fun. Bi 35-49, GWM, honest, know how to communicate have a heart and like to cuddle. ☎ 6720.

A Place At Your Feet
Attractive, intelligent, 27, seeking naturally masculine, genuine dominant who appreciates slow, sensual, sacred adoration...nurturing both my strengths & my submission. Prefer tall, large feet, big heart, true power. ☎ 6723.

Man To Man
Handsome bodybuilder, 6', 190#, 40's, GWM, ISO big, strong good-looking GWM boyfriend. Versatile preferred but not necessary. Leading to LTR. Strong Bears A+. ☎ 6722.

Brawny Guy ISO Gemütlichkeit
Euromutt smoker, 5'11", 190#, stache, hairy likes gym workouts with tongue shower, wks swing/gravedy shift. DOU? Be 25-40, in shape, HIV+, liking stinky man sex & lattes. ☎ 6723.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Sensuous Cock Play-Weekdays
Seeking playmate! Kissing, stroking, oral, ball licking—just giving & receiving pleasure! Discreet, 48, HIV-, stash, nice guy, trim, sensitive nipples & well endowed. Call for shared pleasure! Uncut A++ ☎ 6515.

Full Service Pump
Warm, gentle, affectionate, nice looking, GWM, 6'1", 165#, 60, HIV-, fully natural bare bottom seeking gentle, caring (versatile) bottom for friendship/LTR. Age, race unimportant. Call. ☎ 6516.

Good-looking Uncut Top
Classic uncut dick on a lean, trim, healthy, HIV-, 40's, GWM looking for some attention from a hungry, non-encumbering bottom. Prefer early evenings/days. ☎ 6517.

Hot Man
Seeks sizzling boy. WM, 5'11", 165#, wants fun with Asian/Latin, 25-35, slim, must speak fluent English. Dinners, movies, dancing, travel, like cats, 60-70's music. NS/ND, light drinker, OK. ☎ 6518.

All Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucking off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. ☎ 6519.

Sperm Drinker
Asian and Latin cum especially swallowed. My soft deep throat is your sperm receptacle and also craves your hot piss. Call now for same day or night call back. ☎ 6520.

Big Meat Seats Relief!
Your mouth or tight ass is the perfect place for this hot, handsome, uncum boyish top. You are a space, submissive and want some fun! ☎ 6521.

Open For Business
GWM, 48, oral-anal bottom seeks top for entry. Dicks or fists welcome. HIV-, need to learn to be submissive. You can do it! ☎ 6522.

ISO: Black Meat
Italian whore stud, 44, 6', 195#, goatee, lives in the Castro in search of black stud to service late at night. Cum and get off! ☎ 6523.

If You Like A Hard Ride
I've got 8 inches that will be a perfect fit, handsome top, in shape, hairy chest, goatee wants to pump butt & more, hot bottoms, let's get it in! ☎ 6524.

Endless Oral
Masculine, healthy, HIV+, GWM, 44, 6', 195#, gym, h/wt, prop, bald/buzz, hung, videos, Polk area, seeks similar for mutual expert oral. NS. Poss LTR. ☎ 6525.

Str/Bi Curious? WM 18-22?

Smooth chest? Kick it with me! Students/Jocks call now! Santa Cruz Beach Party? Rick. ☎ 6526.

Dad Seeks Son

Masculine, in shape, Dad, 48, 6', 180#, seeks son for anal exploration, light SM, BD, cuddle afterwards. ☎ 6527.

Nordic, Northern European

Featured muscle guys wanted by hard body fuck enthusiast (top) for sex events. Minimum body fat demanded. ☎ 6528.

No Gag Reflex—I Swear!

Zone out for comprehensive oral relief (wink, wink) from this GWM with no gag reflex and hairy salivary throat. 6/170/40# hair-challenged, big-brained, big-headed, and fairly big-brained nice fella. And welcome back, returnees! ☎ 6529.

Handsome Muscular Italian

Seeking handsome muscular black men for hot sex. Let's fuck and suck each other till we blow our loads. ☎ 6629.

GWM, 39, Very Gdkg

Seeks gimp fit buddy, HIV+, for fucking & ass eating, HIV+ only. I love the taste of a guy's hole. ☎ 6630.

Butt Eurasian Bottom Needed

Tall, white, handsome man needs cute muscular smooth skinners, masculine Eurasian with tight bubble ass & talented mouth, 25-30's something. ☎ 6631.

Bend Over & Drop Em, Bad Boy!
Spankings for cute boys with round rumps (18-35). Must be obedient and crave humiliation—safe asshole play an option. I'm a handsome husky youthfull 40. San Francisco/San Jose. ☎ 6632.

Butt Sniffers/Finger Bangers

Pitt sniffer, want select, other very masc. firm butted duds. Str/bi OK. 1 on 1 or group meetings. Friendship/posse relationship. Ultimately, funky weekend camping trips w/Sonoma Co dude. ☎ 6633.

Kick Back!

GWM, 5'10", 160#, br;br, cln shaven, fun, friendly, luv to suck cock and balls. SK, masc, trim, G/W/H/A, 18-40. Couples OK. ☎ 6634.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt

Versatile, 5'11", 23"-built, hung big, need Caucasian, 20-30's, well-built w/big hairy bubble butt to eat. ☎ 6635.

Leather Muscle FF/Toy Group

Interviewing for top notch muscled men and boys hot for leather, toys, FF-group action with ball grade A masculine guys ready for nasty fun. ☎ 6636.

San Jose-Campbell Blow Job

I'm looking for single and married white man from 18-35, looking to give them a great blow job. I love to suck cock, taste cum. I know I do better job than your girlfriend or wife. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 6637.

Top ISO Top

31 yo, GWM, top, 6', 165#, lean and hairy. Wants to learn how to be a bottom boy. Into leather, BD, SM, role playing. Please be patient and hot. ☎ 6638.

On Your Knees Suck Boy

WM, 40+, HIV+, average build needs regular obedient head at your SF place. You HIV+, healthy submissive slim or muscular, hairy expert deep throat cum lover into taking orders. ☎ 6639.

Romantic Michael?

You responded to my ad titled romantic bottom, I inadvertently stood you up. You called again but didn't leave your number (twice). You are 5'7", 140. Call again! ☎ 6640.

Biological Father & Son Sought

U2B HWP, EZ goin, over 18. I'm 35, in shape, WM, goatee, specs, HIV+; let's have a beer & see what happens. In SF. Clement versatile. ☎ 6641.

Cock Play Pal-Discreet Pleasure

Stroking licking, oral, kissing sensual play. GWM, 169#, br, bl, stache, 5'11 1/2", in LTR seeking xtra play afternoons weekdays. HIV+, nicely endowed w/big cut head. Young 49. Wld like reg play buddy for friendship & fun. ☎ 6642.

24hr Party Boys E Bay Party Free
Generous WM, 27, hot. I bring party favors, you bring cock. Looking for under 35 boys who want expert oral service one on one or groups. Satisfaction guaranteed. Tattoos A+. ☎ 6643.

I Wanna Dick
GWM, 6', 165#, HIV-, NS/ND, like 6" to suck & get fucked watch movies for fun age & race no factor. Please call. ☎ 6644.

Serious Leather Master Needed:
By trainable GLGWM slave, 190, 5'11", 40 yrs, prop. build. You: as tall or taller, good build, 37 to 47, lean & mean. Aggressive, demanding. For training, B&D, W/S, oral service. ☎ 6645.

Mature Black Men

The GWM, 165#, submissive deep throat & bottom seeks blacR men, 40-60, for continuous love sessions. SF and East Bay welcome. ☎ 6646.

Chubby-Dad-Teddy-Grizzly-Bear

Castro, 49 yo, 6', 240# deep voice, short gelled beard & stache, hairy chest, 6" cut, safe, sane, versatile and fun. You be TRIM and ready to play. No drugs. ☎ 6647.

Sex Massage

Dominant, well-hung man, 40, seeks passive guy with muscular butt and legs to massage and probe with my hands, fingers, dildos, dick. ☎ 6648.

East Bay Erotic Sensuous BM

Handsome professional BM, 9"+ uncut, 6', 195#, masculine, squeaky clean, honest, HIV+, seeks similar well hung and/or beefy, muscular build, round bubble butt, a plus BM, race open. ☎ 6650.

Naked At The Door

Have you ever answered your door stark naked? Lean, masculine WM, 40, wants to interview trim, masculine young boys for sex and nudity survey. ☎ 6651.

Tickle

Muscular, masculine, GWM, 44, seeks other muscular, masculine, GWM under 50 for tickle sessions. ☎ 6724.

Mature Men 6" Or More Wanted
By small, hairy, submissive 40 year old. Expose our cocks and we'll both know who's the boss and why. Humiliation, Bondage, Abuse. Service. Slave. More. ☎ 6725.

Tight Hole Needs Fucked
5'11", brown hair, buzz cut, loves to suck and loves to get fucked. Can you give it to me? ☎ 6726.

Lg WM Likes To Take And Give
In ass 2 times daily. Looking for yellow rain. Likes hairy cavers. ☎ 6727.

Wanted: Straight Acting Men
Very good looking HIV+, GWM, 40, 6', 190#, with short brown hair, and mustache, seek straight acting, good-looking men for god times. Looking for men between 20-35. All nationalities welcome. NS/ND. ☎ 6728.

GAM ISO Adventurous GWM
Attractive, HIV-, GAM, 5'3", 145#, 35yo. Seeking HIV+ fuck buddies for WS. Prefers men w/avg sz dicks, 25-40 yo. No drugs or S&M. SF residents only. ☎ 6729.

FF Star Fkr

Experienced, versatile, handsome, masculine, works out. Expert, good sex, nice person, No BS. Seeks tops or versatile similar men only. ☎ 6730.

Top Fist Daddy Is

Good-looking, proportionate, 6'1", 40's, hairy, seeking proportionate fist bottom. Once or reg basis. Pluses: younger, hung, uncut, bod build, pub butt. ☎ 6731.

Men 45-55

GWM, poz, hairy, healthy, 41, 5'8", 160, good-looking, wants to service men, 45-55+, in the city. You must be muscular and masculine. Hairy/verbal A+. ☎ 6733.

Looking Men Of All Colors 4 Sex
GWM, 44 years young (looks 30's), blue/brown, 6', 148#, slim-build, masculine, goatee, top & HIV- seeking men of all colors, 21-50 for playmates and hot times. ☎ 6738.

Mounted Patrolman SF GG Park
I love to mount & love to feel the power between my legs which is considerable. Tall boots and leather, please. Are you willing? ☎ 6734.

Cute 25 YD GWM

Seeks attractive GWM, under 40, for hot sweaty, passionate sex. I'm 6', tall, with a smooth, slim build and boyish looks. ☎ 6736.

Let's Wrestle!

Muscular, handsome GWM seeks other well built guys turned on by erotic wrestling—Just good, clean, sweaty fun. Go ahead and call—you won't be disappointed. ☎ 6735.

Full Body Strong Sensual Oil Mass
Wanted by handsome, athletic, smooth-skinned friendly Asian male on a regular basis. I enjoy receiving lengthy head to toe massages. S 6648.

Daytime Asshole Eater!

"Get your asshole eaten by a pro." ☎ 6541.

Bondage Novice Beginner Master
To instruct in the art of restraint. Me: 6', 180#, bl/bl/gr, average build, eager for hands-on teaching form wrists/ankles to monetization. You: 30+, experienced. ☎ 6542.

Sheer Delights And More!
GWM, 32, 63", 200#, HIV+, Scandinavian looking, bbl/bl, size 11 feet, seeking men into sheer socks, speedos, biking shorts as turn on, foreplay, can lead to sex. Seek 25-. ☎ 6543.

Big Dick BBM Boys Turn Me On
Muscular, hairy, 5'11", 175#, HIV+, healthy, 39, hung, GWM, bald/buzz, beard have a tight ass into role playing, SM, cuddling, UB; fit, hung, ready to ride. Equal opportunity. ☎ 6544.

Pec Overdrive
WM, 41, masculine, athletic, All-American, 6', 190#, strong, muscular, trim, solid chest, big arms, HIV-, not into scene. Seeks short, shy, HIV+ with big erogenous pits, nipples. ☎ 6545.

Long-Haired Men Wanted
Filmmaker seeks long-haired men for documentary project. Will be in town June 18-July 1. Let's talk or set up a meeting. Filming does not require nudity. ☎ 6546.

Asian Idols
Sought by fit, fair-haired, mid-forties, clean cut GWM for sensual attention. Let me strip, shower, massage and worship your lean, smooth, hard body. Safe, clean fun assured. ☎ 6740.

Mature Straight Needs WM 65-70
To humiliate me, tie me down, shave genitals, use tools on virgin ass torment cock denying climactic jerk off on my face. Hose me down while I jack off. ☎ 6653.

Just Boots
Masculine, healthy and ready to serve your boots. Feel the power and passion at the bottom of your being. I'm there. ☎ 6655.

Boot/Foot Slave Seats Playmate
GWM, 30, totally into worshipping boots, socks, feet, in search of Latin or white Master/playmate for kinky times. I'm 5'10", 160, br/bl, GL. ☎ 6656.

Scat Voyeur & Courteous
30yo male video model, handsome, gym body with jeans, T-shirt and sneakers looks to sit in on your next session. 2 or more guys in their 20's and 30's who are clean cut. Leather, facial hair, over 39 are turn-offs. ☎ 6657.

Very Lain Smooth Young Asian?
Chinese, Japanese, etc. Immigrants seeking. East Bay WM, 5'8", 6ft, 174#, has sensual masturbation video. I'll tenderly stimulate your hole. You'll passionately scream while shooting your cream. Mutual discretion desired. ☎ 6658.

Feel The Difference!
GWM will shave your crotch, balls, ass & more! Fun, safe experience. All ages, all eth. origins. Let's talk! ☎ 6532.

Show Off Those Hard-Ons
JO, show off hard, walk around with it out. We meet at different, sleazy places around the city. If you like to hang out with a boner, give us a call. ☎ 6533.

Parade And Flaut
Older gentleman wants a young beau to pose for him stark naked with stiff hard penis rampant. ☎ 6534.

Need A Hot Fuck
Truly an asshole eater first, w/rim chair. Me: Hip, hot, attr, 5'11", 165#, 40. You: hot, in shape, to 45, w/pucker hole & lips. ☎ 6535.

Medical Top Southerner
By him, I have an operating room, table, exam gear, restraints, caths, NG tubes, sounds, rubber & more. HIV-, NS, 5'9", 178#, clean cut, 40's, very discreet. ☎ 6536.

Fit To Tied!
Slave seeks experienced Leather Master for bondage and S&M. Am 39, masculine, good looks and build. No drugs! ☎ 6537.

HIV+ WM East Bay
Seeks other HIV+ guys for mutual oral and jack off sessions. Any race, under 35. Shaved and cut a plus. ☎ 6538.

Big Bears & Cigars
WM, 35, looking for smokin' bear buddy to explore some man to man action, raunch, WS, etc. ☎ 6539.

In Search Of Dog Slave
For ownership, obedience training, collaring, bondage, S&M, etc. Prefer young, small and slim or muscular, short hair breed. ☎ 6540.

Man Seeks Boy
42 year old hot man ISO dedicated, loyal boy to service my every need. Boy should be 20's, early 30's, must work out, experienced/ open to WS/kink. Be ready to serve. ☎ 6744.

Man Seeks Boy
42 year old hot man ISO dedicated, loyal boy to service my every need. Boy should be 20's, early 30's, must work out, experienced/ open to WS/kink. Be ready to serve. ☎ 6745.

Submissive Slave Wanted
GWC, 45/43, ISO sub-slave, 26-40, HIV+, proportional, total submission. Pos it. ☎ 6544.

ISO Uncut Dicks Clean R Cheesy

WM, late 50's, ISO thin WM, LM, needs his foreskinned dick serviced. All long hairy, mean assholes to expose and serve. Days are early ones. Only. My home. ☎ 6746.

Attention: Butt Sluts
Action oriented, tall, FF top, GW, leather bear, 39, hosts dildo/FF sling parties in my SJ playroom or your place SF. Experienced, serious only. Small but tops welcome. ☎ 6747.

GM W/Oral Ring Loves Doing It
Barefoot. Lifelong craving for reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, naked body closeness, JO, fantasies. Dirty soles OK. Unhibited, EB, masculine, tan, good-looking GWM, 5'9", 140#. HIV+ seeks foot buddy and friend. ☎ 6748.

Tobacco Users
GLM, 40, 6', 155#, dark hair & mustache, ISO heavy smokers & other tobacco users who enjoy lots of deep kissing & sensual times. All ages & types. No leather, SM, pain, drugs. ☎ 6749.

Rubber Master Sought
By slave, sir. Wants to serve you. Hooded & in chains, sir. Slave is 44, GWM, 5'10", 250# (stocky) tattooed/pierced, sir. Permanent ownership desired, sir. ☎ 6750.

South Bay Scat Buddy Wanted
GWM, 29, slim, here San Jose wants scat buddy for fun: shitting all over each other, smearing, JO, wallowing, trid, worship etc. (No bullshit, just man-shit). ☎ 6751.

Splooge You Wed Down My Threat
Hot, hairy, bearded, tattooed, beard, buzzed, urinary toilet/spittoon for raunch tops. VA, BO, cheese, Yo, butch, gimp, come a gimp. ☎ 6752.

Hungry Oral Sub Bottom Wanted
Hot by man, 58, 5'8", 135#, good build, aggressive, verbal, caring. If you're in good shape and like the idea of a man standing over you. Call. ☎ 6753.

Hairy Raunchy Scat Son Top
Seeking pig dad. I'm GWM, 40, 5'9", in shape, HIV+, like daddy bottoms into serving your dirty adult son. Uniforms. ☎ 6754.

Bondage For Asians
WM, late 40's, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock/balls/its and make you cum. Muscular a plus. ☎ 6755.

Don't Spare The Rod
Or you'll spoil the lesson for this sucker. Big bears need a discipline session to remember. ☎ 6756.

Tickle Bottom Seeks Top
Hold me down, make me squirm, tie me up, make me squirt. Sexy boy, 30, 5'8", 130#, into being restrained, slow JO, you are in charge. ☎ 6757.

Big Pig Bottom ISO Rough Tops
GWM, 5'10", 245#, 40, brn/brz, goatee, gldkg, HIV+, total bottom ISO sweaty, super raunchy, verbal, dominant men for rape scenes, gang bangs, BD, TT, CBT, Age, race, looks, size unimportant. ☎ 6741.

Big Men Play Rough
Slave seeks hairy bear, wrestling, nut slappin', tits, bear-belly trash talk, piss, UFC play, combat. Load up your briefs & let's go for the short hairs. ☎ 6742.

Daytime Asshole Eater
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 6743.

Lingerie Boys
Bear dad manhandles sissies who wear panties, garter belts, stockings, Humiliation, spanking, CB, shaving, VS, toys for one or more girlie boys. ☎ 6744.

Man Seeks Boy
42 year old hot man ISO dedicated, loyal boy to service my every need. Boy should be 20's, early 30's, must work out, experienced/ open to WS/kink. Be ready to serve. ☎ 6745.

Raunchy GAM Sks Pro Butt Feeders
Expert buttsucking pig, 38/6'1", 156#, big sticks seeks Top Only facemelters for extended buttfucking. You: 35+, very hot, facial hair, Top seriously into getting deep rimmed. Big lips/hole a plus. ☎ 6659.

RU Fed Up W/Stuck Up Attitude
I'm 41, blond, flattop and stash, HIV-, 5'9", 140#, very hot many looks. I wear and dig men in uniforms, leather, levis, jocks, boots and leather. No tweakers. ☎ 6760.

Hot Riu Pig Sks Pro Butt Feeders
Expert buttsucking pig, 38/6'1", 156#, big sticks seeks Top Only facemelters for extended buttfucking. You: 35+, very hot, facial hair, Top seriously into getting deep rimmed. Big lips/hole a plus. ☎ 6761.

Young Hispanic Student
21 yr old student, 5'11", ISO, seeks gentlemen who need to be put in their place. Service me front & back. Out only. ☎ 6763.

Erotic Wrestling
GWM, 32, 5'11", 160#, good-looking and well-muscled. Seeking others turned on by wrestling. Not competitive, amateur freestyle, but erotic, submission-style wrestling with long-held holds. Novices welcome. ☎ 6764.

Football Buddies Wanted
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◀ page 35

famously self-absorbed author's three big hits — *Valley of the Dolls*, *The Love Machine*, and *Once Is Not Enough* — to be reissued this fall from Grove Atlantic, but two Susann biopsies are reportedly underway, one based on Simon & Schuster editor **Michael Korda**'s dishy article about the author published last year in *The New Yorker*, the other on **Barbara Seaman**'s more reverent Susann biography, *Lovely Me: The Life of Jacqueline Susann* (Seven Stories Press).

Though we don't as yet have much info on the Korda flick, a chat with the New York-based Seaman the other day revealed that Broadway legend **Michelle Lee**, a Tony Award-winner for *How To Succeed in Business*, will play Susann in the film. Says Seaman, "She really looks the part. She's what Jackie would have wanted to look like — only more beautiful." Guess Seaman doesn't remember **Truman Capote**'s infamous barb about the linebackeresque Susann: "She looks like a truck driver in drag."

Garland rarities at 'Dolls' screening

We're very excited about Huestis' *Valley of the Dolls* event, scheduled for Friday, July 18 at the Castro Theatre. In addition to a screening of the film, Huestis has planned an onstage interview with *Dolls* star **Barbara Parkins**, who played the part of **Anne Wells**. Though Parkins was perfect in the role, Huestis tells us she wasn't director **Mark Robson**'s first pick. Since Anne is a blonde in the novel, Robson wanted **Candice Bergen** to play the part, but Parkins, who was big news around 20th Century Fox at the time, went straight to the head of the film company and pulled some strings.

The role of **Helen Lawson** was no piece-of-cake casting either. **Judy Garland** was first pick, but her own real-life problems with dolls and booze put the kabash on that. However, before she quit the film for what *Variety* said at the time were "personal reasons," she had actually completed five days of shooting and recorded at least one song. At Huestis' July 18 event, expect to see **Judy's heretofore unseen wardrobe tests** and hear her sing the song she recorded for the film, "I'll Plant My Own Tree."

In addition to the film, the Garland rarities, and the Parkins interview (hosted by gossipmeister **Ted Casablanca**), Hostess Huestis' spectacular *Dolls* evening will also feature a beauty contest, "Miss Living Doll 1997." Queens who wish to compete for the title should contact Marc Huestis at



Wearing George's cup?

Outsider Enterprises (863-0611). Tickets to the 30th anniversary of *Valley of the Dolls* are \$15 and can be purchased at A Different Light Bookstore on Castro or by calling (415) 863-0611. Check out Huestis' website at: WWW.sex-is.com.

Full of itself

A doll of another sort is that filthy minx **Sophie Capplethwaite**, who put on her best dress last Wednesday to attend the opening of the SF Symphony's Sacred and Profane Festival at Davies Symphony Hall. Sadly, her enthusiasm was a bit premature. Despite a delicious Camembert and a buttery Chardonnay in the press room, the merrymaking in this "festival" was decidedly low-key.

Musically, the evening's big conceit was the juxtaposition of **Mozart**'s spiritually heavy Requiem with several of the composer's crude canons, proficient little exercises built around meretricious reflections on food, sex, wine, and feces. The contrast might have yielded more captivating results had **Vance George** and certain members of the SF Symphony chorus nixed all the annoying aren't-we-so-cool-to-be-doing-this-in-Davies-Hall mugging and overarticulating during the canons. As for the Requiem, Sophie was debating with herself during the performance whether or not this was the 337th or the 435th time she'd heard the

piece.

The most fun Sophie had all night was watching an amusing encounter at the coffee queue on the main floor between a clutch of **senectiduous Pac Heightsters** and a **punctilio** **expositor**. The jury is still out as to whether or not the sight of the Ex's **Cynthia Robbins** running around the press room braying about "perfect pitch" is amusing or the makings of a nightmare.

The real thing

Sophie C. found the festival spirit more in evidence at last Friday's *Bay Area Now* opening at the Center for the Arts. While Ms. Capplethwaite and her sometimes sordid sister **Portia** are frequently heard complaining that SF's art scene is just a hackneyed imitation of what the swank are doing elsewhere, both were in agreement that Friday's mix of art and artists was the genuine article.

Sophie was stunned to death by most of the work in the exhibit, which has been culled from 37 Bay Area artists by Curator **Renny Pritkin** and the Center's Visual Arts staff. Sophie's faves included **Rebeca Bollinger**'s cookies bearing the faces of children; **Sandra Wong**'s drawing of a gagged boy in briefs ("Gag #2"); **Stephen Hendee**'s transporting mixed-media installation "Cascade"; **J. John Priola**'s saturnine photographic meditations; and **Marisa Hernandez**'s zany fur-capped staircase.

The piece de resistance for Sophie, however, was a playfully deceptive series of sketches by **Michelle Rollman**. From a distance, the subjects of the drawings look like adorable creatures from some **Beatrix Potter** epic, but up close the cuddly images give way to frightening genetic anomalies, rats with human faces, girls with webbed feet, a lion with a **Joan Crawford**-ish head. The captions, which proffer terse ejaculations like "Damn you," "Leave me alone," and "I'm small and tight," further tweak viewers' expectations.

Stellar art aside, the soiree was a celebritymonger's wet dream. Notables from SF's art world hobnobbed with a hefty helping of the city's many writers, poets, presshounds, and usual suspects. Among those we stopped to chat with were: author **Jacques Servin**, whom we'd like to personally hose down; designer **Rex Ray**, the creative imagination behind this year's shaggy Lesbian and Gay Film Festival design (it's sooo Austin Powers); madcap *Examiner* art critic **David Bonetti**; painter **Brett Reichman**, who turned heads with a fabulously vivid parrot green *chemise*; sculptors **Scott Hewicker** and **Cliff Hengst**; painters **Rigo 97** and **Caitlin Mitchell-Dayton**; über-publicist **David Perry** (*sans* cell phone); and art beat journalists **Roberto Friedman** and **Glen Helfand**.

In his cups

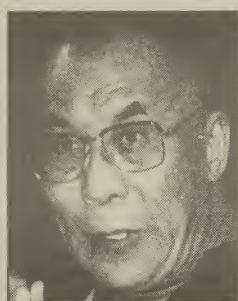
The **Oily Avian** called this week to tell us he's been inundated with scintillating e-mails concerning *Batman* star **George Clooney**. Although we've never thought there was anything the least bit gay about him, we keep on hearing rumbles about the actor having once been a regular at certain LA nightspots, one of them a haunt of dead faggot **Rock Hudson**. What's more, we can't resist repeating a delicious rumor about George's supposed infatuation with *Batman* co-star **Chris O'Donnell**. Apparently when the young actor showed up to work one day without his all-important protective cup, Clooney offered up his own to the **Boy Wonder**. We don't know if Chris took him up on the offer, but we'll keep you posted.

Cold feet

Looks like *The New Yorker* editor **Tina Brown** won't be getting that annual Xmas fruitcake from actor **Jeremy Irons** this year. The famously scrappy ink-stained wretch has decided to pull her mag's support out from underneath Irons' still-floundering *Lolita*, in which the quirky actor portrays the book's girl-crazy protagonist, **Humbert Humbert**.

Brown was originally interested in the film because *Lolita*'s fa-

bled author, **Vladimir Nabokov**, was a frequent *New Yorker* contributor back in the '50s and '60s. After seeing the film at a VIP New York screening, however, Brown, ever fearful of alienating advertisers, freaked over a couple of revealing scenes between Irons and the 15-year-old actress portraying the novel's lusty siren, **Dominique Swain**. Rumor has it that editor Brown left the screening room before the film's ending in order to avoid chatting with Irons and *Lolita* director **Adrian Lyne**, who were in attendance.



The Dalai Lama

Wake up

Several of us were on hand last week to greet the **Dalai Lama** when His Holiness showed up for that nice "Peacemaking" conference at the Civic Auditorium. Had he looked beyond his entourage and the crush of security types that made him seem as remote as any ordinary screen star, His Somethingness would have noticed our "Up With Sodomy" signs bobbing over the heads of all the **blind sheep**.

Oh, we don't mean to be quite so irreverent about the Dalai Lama. Actually, we rather like DL, who continues to be a champion for enlightenment. Our problem is with some of his **do-nothing followers**, in particular the unthinking queer ones, who continue to resist the march of time by not forcing the Buddhist hierarchy to pin down a compassionate point of view on sexually-active homosexuals. Preferring their ducks all in a row, these theory-bound don't-make-wavers probably think they're storing up extra Karma points by not reordering Buddha's prayer book. Alas, history accords most apologists for oppression a less pleasant fate.

Pithy Galore is a mess

Finally, Pithy's pathetic streak continues. Last week when she tried to correct a mistake from the previous week, she made yet another. The opera *The Dangerous Liaisons* was not composed by **Conrad Susa**, as printed, but by **Dan SPAETH**. Pithy is trying hard to be good, but life is exceptionally hard. ▼

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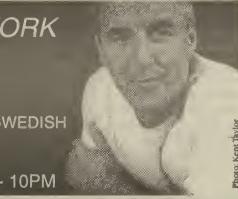


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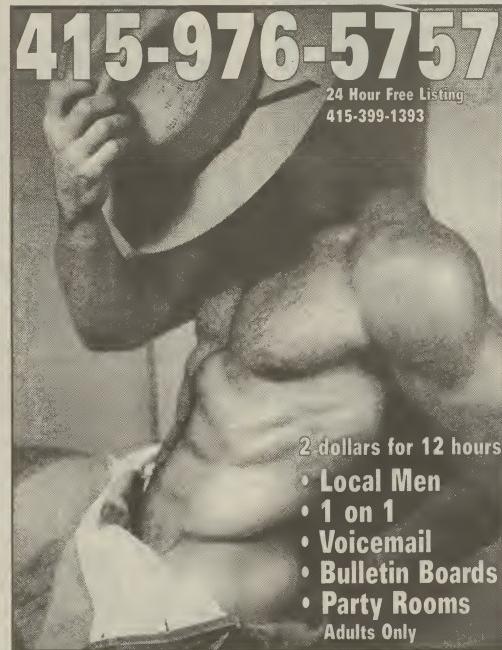
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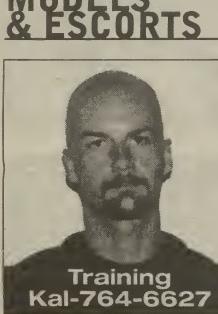
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Seeking Regular and/or New Clients
SF pgr 253-3930 Out onlt Guaranteed

E25

PERSONALS

MODELS & ESCORTS



Sensual Msp, Escort
Body/Foot Worship
Discount for 2 Clients
**346-7975 Kevin
Asian Dream**



**DEEP THROAT
> HUNG BIG <
RON 776-8481**



**BEST THROAT & ASS
VERSATILE HOT
HUNG CHRISTOPHER
PGR. 449-8007**

24hr+B/D/F/F/W/S+ Hot! Cuddly! Fun!
Red white & blue, 34yo, 5'7"-134#-7"
"CALIF REDHEAD"

1/2 Web page w/color photo & e-mail lovings.com/1mencor.htm#Marcel. light
to heavy scenes...in/out \$100+ Marcel+1-
888-340-0232+415-9291803

19 YO PRETTY BOY TOP
Blnd thin smooth 8 1/2 cut Out call
Only John Pager 303-5370

STUDLEY HUNG WELL
Dance Dungeon Diddies (Karl's back!)
(Dominantly-delicious) 621-5016

MULATTO GUY "9"
Call: (415) 775-4771 24 hours

UNCUT MILITARY
Leather Rubber Uniform Fetish
27, 6', 165#, blond/blu, hung 8 1/2"
800-807-0241 PGR/VM

22yo Dirty Punk Boy, 6'1"/180#/Shaved
Head/7" Pierced/BI Eyes/Black Boots
ON YOUR KNEES...

And into your fantasy 313-5854 pgr

Furry, Sweaty, Naked+42yo Long hair
5'10", 170# Friendly, Earthy, Offbeat
\$50 IN/\$75 OUT

Erotic CMT • 764-6319 • Tom

Watch
2 RIPPED PORN STARS

Do It All!
Young, Sexy and Ready

280-8260/ 270-0919 Call Now!

COLT MODEL
JACK KRIEG

52C 18A 36W 6' 230# 8" end.
All scenes 415-522-2325

HANDSOME DAD
HAIRY MASCULINE CHASE
24 HRS PAGE 280-1651

**NATIVE AMERICAN
INDIAN BOY**

Young 20 year old wants
To do A Pow Wow Shamanism
On your body. Hard body
Young, very cute. Out
Calls Only Pg 313-4850

DISCREET ESCORT

Handsome man for your company.
Young, athletic, well educated, two
masters degrees. Available for a varied
evening's pleasure. Marc 415-224-9924

Cuddle Up+8" Nudist Bodybuilder/J/
Tit & Ball Play-Ken•346-4966-\$80

Harvard Rowing Team
WASP, good looks, ripped body
Expensive. Steve. 615-2409

Young Fine Smooth Humpy Studboy
HOT PUP AT THE GYM

Dean: 20, 6', 165#, br/blue, clean-cut,
deep bottom, hard 8", steel ass.
Watch me pump it up? #415-605-3376

EAST BAY BOY

24, 5'11", 165#, blonde/hazel, buffed
100/hr-out, evenings and weekends
Mark...page: 510-429-4413

GIF: BoyYouNow@aol.com

S/M SENSUALITY

-long, & slow- my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B/D, FF, WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959

**Best Lay - Low Pay
"Top" Secret**

One of the Biggest and Best
Butt-Busting Tools of the Trade
865-0144

\$\$\$ FETISH MEN \$\$\$

We're looking for hot
leather/uniform guys for
FETISH and KINK
videos. **TOP PAY** for
those who qualify!

Bob Jones
512-7402
Jim Wigler
673-1284

CHECK ME OUT

Buffed Athletic Nudist &
Exhibitionist Does It Your
Way. 26yo, Energetic &
Friendly. In/Out 527-8124

ROUGH BLK TRADE

Wants 2 force U2 your knees. 2 consume
my 8" ut of thick blk manhood. 5'8",
170#, 30 yo attract top muscle-stud
C43/W/29/A17/Q25 No Drug/Rushed jobs
Domini expert 100 Robert 829-7595 out

•Hot Hawaiian-Jap Pomstar out-Only 2
Rockhard globes of Butt! Hungry•

•Hole• Hot, Sexy 28, 24H 328-5304

Get Hosed W A Hardon Pgr 638-4827

PISS PIG TOP FULTANK

Hispanic student, very good looking
personable & friendly, 21yo, 5'11",
150, out only, Antonio 415-908-6775

10"X 6" CUT

German Italian, brown hair, brown eyes 6',
185lbs, 42ch, 32wt, tanned swimmer's
build, Daniel, 415-539-9867 Out only

XTRA HANDSOME

Jewish/Italian, 34, 6'2", 180, shldr
Inghr hair, hairy chest, hung! Steve
1-888-361-4830 • www.loving.com

DOUBLE PLEASURE

VIETNAMESE
19 yr old Goodlooking Lon 788-0380

MOTORCYCLE BOY

Tall•lean•Sexy•Fast Bike
Wants to take you for a ride.
page Jamie 415-998-6011 Page twice

ALL AMERICAN MALE

Masculine, Handsome, Hairy, Hung
6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly
Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

44yo 5'8" 170 in Only Eve/Wkends

BH \$25 695-8754 Scott in Mission

Foot Fetish • Bpr 834-8170

Healing • Affectionate • Erotic

SACRED TOUCH

\$50 • Tom CMT • (415) 764-6319

EX-CON

Tattooed, Muscular
"Let's make up for lost time."

24 hr. Pager 415-739-2864

FANTASY TOP MAN

Thick 9X7 Erik 24 Hrs 807-7776

23, Cute, Blonde, College Boy, 224-4849

EAST BAY - I KICK BACK

30, 6'2", 200#, Br/Blue, 7/5 cut, clean-
cut, WS scenes too. 510-595-0838-Austin

Better than Valium! 715-6410 Brad

Young Hung Drug-Free Dude

Black 21yo Stud

9" • Ty (415)903-8537 • 24 Hrs

408-249-9234**MAN WITH A FIST-TOYS**

Need a helping hand? Slow• Easy Firm
I'm great with beginners thru advanced.
Give it up to Nikos 885-1471 Nob Hill

HOT TOUGH TOP

Dominant Leatherman, SM, BD, WS,
CBT, Fetish, All Fantasies. 38yo, 6'1",
210#. Brown Hair, Blue Eyes,
Flatfoot, mustache, 7" uncut. Beginner
to Heavy. Have Equipment
Scott 415 790-0902 In/Out

**FF, BEATINGS,
ROPES**

SLING/LIGHT TO HARD
WILL 922-8992
\$80-\$100

FRENCH MARINE

Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.

New in town from
Paris, France
739-2391

**SUPER-THICK
UNCUT TOP**

MASCULINE LATIN,
CLEAN-CUT, ATHLETIC
BUILT GOODLOOKING-
SATISFYING 24 HRS.

JOE (415) 431-MALE
IN-OUT \$85-\$95

**270★2719
SUPERHOT**

22ys old Cuban/Italian
Beautiful Hard
Defined Body
5'11"★10 uncut★175lbs
Butch Tri Athlete
Hot Top or Bottom

SEXY GUY

Hung 9" and the Hottest

775-4771 24 Hrs

PLAYGUY MODEL

FEB. 1996

Booted Professional Dominant
BONDAGE TOP

Wicked imagination! High intensity!
Fully equipped dungeon, safe & save
All major credit cards 415-626-4319

26yo Latino Stud, bronze skin, wants
To make your time, the best one 4u!!

ANDRES! 415-527-6096

SACRAMENTO HUNK

(916) 819-0447 Built Chest/Arms

Pec & Nipple Ecstasy 773-9130 Kory

2 CUTE YOUNG GUYS

Both 23, Short Hair, Cln Cut

1 Blond, Nice and Thick

1 Br/Br, Great Ass, Smooth 280-7851

The boy next door-Hot and Cute
LEATHER BOY TOY

5'10", 180#, shaved head
Slim build, 7 thick inches, tight
Nuts and a sweet bubble butt.
Friendly outgoing personality.
Hot oral give and take.
\$80/in \$100/out Andy 708-5388

HUNKY HAIRY HANDSOME

5'11", 185, hot chest, hairy, butch,
Bubble butt, needs solid oral
Attention front & back Pg 303-1235

AUSSIE JOCK

Blonde/Attractive & Versatile, 25yo,
6', 160lb, w/defined swimmers/b

9" CUT

Kurt pgr 679-1308

Masculine Muscular Out Only 273-1814

HUNG BLACK TOP

The pump works --Mature well tanned
GWM, 51, pumps you up & provides
relaxing massage o/only \$35 Page
415-202-6486

BUDGET TOP

Latin Longhair, Hung, Day Rate
Discounts. \$75/100 Carlos 861-2603

**TORSO, ADVOCATE
PLAYGIRL MODEL**

MICHAEL'S ESCORT

408-559-3617

Very Cute, Boyish, Massage-Escort
Blond/Blue/Tanned/Smooth Body

HOT SENSUAL MASSAGE

Michael 11-11PM 905-4548 \$80/up

Italian Stud, Black hair, Brn eyes,
6ft, Swimmer's build, defined chest &
legs, Bedroom eyes, Beautiful ass, 8"
uncut. Outcalls Pref/Hotels

Gino, 22 Model looks Hourly/All night
Don't you want it now! 436-0402 VM

Cute guy 5'5", 135#, nice chest & arms,
Small cute tight smooth bottom. Hung.
Older men welcome \$50 Donald 351-2034

Black 21yo Stud

9" • Ty (415)903-8537 • 24 Hrs

24 YR OLD HUNK

VERY HANDSOME

VERY MUSCULAR

VERY MASCULINE

6'3", 250lb Stud Damion 679-1684

Spank & Paddle & Belt Your Butt

Kory 773-9130 I/0 24H Discreet Guy

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PERSONALS

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VIDEO STAR COUGAR CASH

6'
175lbs
Solid

Bondage or Escort
922.4805

INDULGE YOURSELF!
IN/OUT CALLS
357.0705

ANDRE 597-3613

RUSTY

9x6
FALCON MODEL
(415) 280-8260

CLARK
270-0919

5'9"
160lb

ITALIAN
807-9822

PHOTO BY RONNIE MCKEEBES FOR THE BAY AREA REPORTER

Anthony

Photo: RAM STUDIOS

6'2
8 1/2 x 6
27 y.o.

415.861.6027
Serving all bay areas

ASIAN BOY TOY 376.2839

CORY 6'2" 230lbs
208-5496

**HANDSOME.
MASCULINE.
BUILT.
PERIOD.**

\$180
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Perfect Legs and Ass
6'2", 8",
Blond, Blu
22 yrd God

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22 years old & hot!
\$100
OUTCALLS ONLY
pager 978-7171

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-Bold Stops Here ▼ Bold Stops Here ▼ Caps Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY. Payment must accompany ad. No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

PAYMENT

- Cash
 - Personal Check
 - Money Order
 - Visa
 - MasterCard
- Minimum \$10 charge, on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Telephone
Address	
City	State Zip
Number of Issues	Classification
Amount Enclosed	

**DELIVER OR
MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:**

BAY AREA
REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco,
CA 94103

WANT DICK, SEE DICK,
MEET DICK...

GET DICK!

THE SLUT LINE—
TOTALLY UNCENSORED, ONE-TO-ONE
LIVE BACKROOM, INSTANT REPLY
BULLETIN BOARD FOR MEN WANTING
SEX NOW & PHOTO SWAPPING
TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING

PLAY LONGER ON
THE SLUT LINE
IT'S CHEAP & DIRTY
1-900-844-5656
\$2.49 FOR 48 HOURS

FREE REGULAR & ESCORT LISTINGS
CALL 415-398-1616 USE PIN #95601



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ADULTS ONLY/GAY OWNED AND OPERATED/CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS/212-688-4934 10AM-10PM

You don't need
a photo of some **plastic, overdone**
muscle clone to get you **hot.**

What you need is... **RAUNCHY MASTERS**
PIG BOTTOMS **SUBMISSIVE SLAVES**
HAIRY DADDIES **SWEATY JOCKS**
MUSCLE BOTTOMS **ROUGH TRADE**
SERVICE BOYS **AGGRESSIVE TOPS**
TOTAL SLUTS *What are you waiting for?*

Hot, live one-to-one & bulletin boards

24 hours for \$2.40—only 10¢ per hour!

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